

Hafa Adai!

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## PRIDE AT THE PARK

Members of the community celebrate love and acceptance with songs, dances, exhibits, and even magic at "Pride at the Park," organized by Pride Marianas Youth with partners last Friday, at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

Story on Page 3

IVA MAURIN

## OF 11,650 CHILDREN EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM P-EBT Only 5,834 have applied so far

» Application deadline moved to June 25

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Of an estimated 11,650 children that are expected to benefit from the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer program, only 5,834 P-EBT applications have so far been submitted as of last June 15. See ONLY on Page 4

## Senator wants to see PUA/PFUC docs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) wants to see for herself documents related to the CNMI Department of Labor's issuance of Pandemic Un-

employment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits.

In line with this, DeLeon Guerrero submitted Wednesday last week an Open Government

See SENATOR on Page 4



DeLeon Guerrero

## T'way Air could resume flights next month

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
COM REPORTER

After a 15-month suspension of flights as a result of

the COVID-19 pandemic, T'way Air is tentatively set to resume its Seoul Incheon-Saipan route next month.

According to Commonwealth Ports Author-

ity board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, T'way is just waiting on approval from the South Korean government before they can offi- See T'WAY AIR on Page 4

## FOR CNMI'S PILOT TOURISM INVESTMENT PROGRAM 'Only 1 hotel will be selected as hybrid quarantine hotel'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Only one hotel will be selected as the designated hybrid quarantine hotel on Saipan for South Korean tourists under the CNMI's pilot Tourism Investment Program, or TRIP, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In response to a question from Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) about TRIP's hy-



lakopo



Alepuyo

brid quarantine hotel during the House Ways and Means Committee's budget hearing last week, MVA managing di- See HOTEL on Page 4

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## AT A GLANCE

As of 8:34pm, June 20, 2021

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **60.9%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	24,047
Fully Vaccinated:	21,795
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,038
Fully Vaccinated:	3,650
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	374

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,266	1	8,267
Recovered	8,071	6	8,077
Active	50	1	51
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	174,108		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	89		

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Boeing's newest version of the 737 Max jetliner completed its first test flight Friday.

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### NATION

Parades, picnics and lessons in history were offered to commemorate Juneteenth in the U.S.

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### ASIA

The sinking of a container ship in Sri Lanka has caused "a significant damage to the planet."

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# Local

## JURY TRIAL IN CHILD ABUSE CASE ENTERS DAY 4

### Defense wants court to declare proceedings a 'mistrial'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The lawyer of a woman who is facing child abuse charges in the death of a 3-year-old boy asked the Superior Court last Thursday to declare the proceedings in the case a "mistrial" and accused the prosecution of not following the rules of evidence.

During the fourth day of the jury trial of Stacey Laniyo,

defense counsel Mark Scoggins aired frustration over how slow the trial was because of what he described as the "prosecution's endless efforts" to prove that one of its key witnesses, Lynn Fitial, is a hostile witness. He then verbally requested Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho to declare a mistrial.

"This trial needs to end, this is a mistrial. This prosecutor will

not follow the rules. I've never seen anything like it. I don't understand how we can have a fair trial under these conditions. It's the worst I've ever seen. It's the most unethical behavior I've ever seen," he said.

Scoggins' main argument to support his verbal motion for a mistrial was that the prosecution, led by assistant attorney general Coleen St. Clair, continued to ask questions "that

were not even relevant" to what Laniyo was being tried for—child abuse.

"We believed going into this case that the sickness of the boy was not going to be the focus, but what else have we talked about? Who gives a crap about how many times he vomited? It has nothing to do with whether this woman abused him and that's all we're talking about," he said.

In addition, he said it is no longer a fair trial because the prosecution does not follow the rules of evidence.

"I've never seen anything like this. I've never been in a trial where we get to the fourth day and we've had maybe an hour of substantive testimony. How many hours have we spent listening to arguments about hostile witness? As soon as counsel gets the opportunity, she starts making statements, from her mouth, not the witness', about how there are inconsistent statements in the police reports and continuously trying to introduce facts not in evidence," he said.

About the alleged tampering of statements that Fitial had alleged, Scoggins argued that the trial is no longer fair, now that the prosecution has made it seem like the witness was lying about that.

"She led the court to believe that this witness was

a liar. The worst part is that some of this was presented to the jury," he said.

After counsels spoke with Department of Public Safety investigator Rosa Rios, she told them that the statements were not in order when it was presented at court and that she did review the statements with Fitial and asked her to sign it upon reviewing it.

Fitial stood firm on her claims that she did not sign off on some of the statements, Rios had them mixed up with other witnesses, and that she did not see those statements when Rios reviewed them with her.

Camacho moved forward with the trial, called back the jurors, and instructed them to disregard the portion that Fitial read out loud and said she did not see.

## USA Fanter goes after IPI assets

USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow the auction of Imperial Pacific International LLC's assets to satisfy a court judgment of \$2.1 million.

USA Fanter, through attorney Colin Thompson, asked the court to issue a writ of execution against IPI that would allow the auction of its vehicles and casino gaming machines in order to pay USA Fanter and satisfy the previous judgment entered against it.

According to Thompson, IPI has not posted a *superseedeas* or appeal bond, and has not obtained an order staying execution on the judgment.

He said the automatic stay operated only for 30 days from the date of the judgment and the automatic stay expired last March 14.

Because of this, USA Fanter requests that the writ of execution take effect and be served by the U.S. Marshals as soon as practicable.

Thompson said the judgment remains unsatisfied in the amount of \$2,198,405.56 plus post-judgment interest,

costs, and fees that have yet to be addressed.

Thompson noted that IPI owns and controls vehicles and casino gaming machines with an estimated value of \$3,241,484.

"USA Fanter requests the court to issue a writ of execution to have the vehicles and casino gaming machines sold in an auction in order to pay USA Fanter and satisfy the judgment," he said.

Thompson also requested the court to set a hearing and to provide IPI with the opportunity to advance any applicable exemptions.

USA Fanter sued IPI for refusing to pay \$2.1 million for work completed under their construction contract.

Back in February, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled in favor of USA Fanter against IPI in the amount of \$2,089,345.28. Last May 26, the court amended the judgment and included a monetary judgment in the amount of \$2,089,345.28. (Kimberly B. Esmores)

## IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

### Torres granted administrative leave

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres granted administrative leave for all non-critical Executive Branch employees last Friday beginning at 12pm in observance of a new national holiday, Juneteenth National Independence Day.

In his memorandum addressed to all department and activity heads last Friday, Torres said Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of the last enslaved African Americans and the end of slavery in the United States. He granted the administrative leave in commemoration of this significant

day in the nation's history.

"May this new national holiday allow for all of us to reflect on our country's past, the fight for freedom and equality, and our responsibility to continue to work toward a brighter future for all," Torres said.

On Thursday, June 17, Pres. Joe Biden signed Senate Bill 475, also known as the "Juneteenth Bill," designating June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day and a legal federal holiday. That makes Juneteenth is the 12<sup>th</sup> federal holiday. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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# Pride at the Park: A celebration of love and acceptance

By IVA MAURIN  
CORRESPONDENT

It was a rainy Friday afternoon right before the *Pride at the Park* began. Then the skies cleared up to reveal a rainbow at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

Hundreds came to celebrate love at *Pride at the Park*, one of the many scheduled activities organized by Pride Marianas Youth with its partners, for Pride Month. The event featured songs and dances, magic, family-friendly activities, educational resources, raffles and giveaways, as well as a specially-curated exhibit housed by the museum, which included the Stories of Pride from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the pride flag colors, art exhibits from allies, and posters highlighting Pride Marianas events throughout the years.

"We're basically trying to repaint the sky as a more colorful, wonderful community," said Dan Brown of Pride Marianas Youth. "Have love and acceptance and respect for all."

Pride Marianas Youth, which is a coalition of family and friends and community members in the Marianas who want to support to the youth who may be struggling with their identity, or having feelings of insecurities, among others, is looking to create more allies with the community. Their mission is to show love and support for all LGBTQ+ youth, and to increase awareness of the issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community on the island.

"There's just so many dif-



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, is flanked by Miss Earth Northern Marianas Ria Lael Terlaje, left, and Miss Marianas Savannah Relox Delos Santos, at "Pride at the Park" event last Friday at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

ferent identities now, and so many different people just trying to be their authentic selves. So it's really about just being open and loving and respectful to all, and understanding that we're just trying to be ourselves, live life, and enjoy just like everybody else in the community, and to see the CNMI embracing the community and supporting us like this is just a wonderful feeling," said Brown.

Among those who showed up last Friday to show their support was Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan). "Pride means supporting all people who identify in any which way, because we are all human beings. All of us just want to belong and want to live our best life. ... We all have family who might identify. ... We are people who love our families, we are a family community, we should support the people who we love... We have to support them and love them [for] who they are."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang also expressed support, calling for acceptance and equality for all. "We've

got a group of incredible young advocates here with us who are doing great things that include clearing the path toward universal acceptance of all who make this a better world, one that is free of biases, segregation and labeling. We do not need any of that."

Apatang pointed out that there are federal and state laws now that give equal protection for every person, no matter their preference. The mayor stressed the need for everyone to "continue the march forward," as he expressed hope for violence, discrimination, labeling, and hate crimes against gender equality to soon be a thing of the past.

"Equality is for everyone from all walks of life, all races, all genders. No one deserves



Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan (and son), poses with Reps Sheila Babauta, center, and Leila Staffler, right, at the "Pride at the Park" event last Friday, at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

to feel alone. Being different is not easy, but being different is not wrong. There is absolutely nothing wrong. If we can come together and understand, love, and accept some-

one who's different, if we can be aware and be very sensitive of the language we use, we can create a world that knows no hate and a lot of kindness and compassion," Apatang

added. "I want to see our island filled with more colors of the rainbow. Treat others with kindness, and approach them with the most harmonious language of acceptance."

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GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING JUNE 23, 2021

## U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

From

4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

\*\*DOWNLOAD SLIDES at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/>

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You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 1996962365##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: 32dfHu4zKg\$



Benefits Workshop Topics:

Compensation, Pension, Education & Training, DIC, Survivor Benefits, Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Burial and Plot Internment Allowance, Burial Flags, & Insurance



# Tasi to Table's Rota chapter receive rods and reels



Tasi to Table Inc. president Gene Weaver, Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, and some members of TTT's board of directors pose for a photo with Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School students who are part of TTT's Rota branch at Teteto Beach last Saturday.

JOSHUA SANTOS

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**ROTA**—Thirteen students from the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./ Sr. High School were each given fishing rods and other fishing accessories last Saturday in a ceremony at Teteto Beach as part of their participation in Tasi to Table Inc., signaling the program's further expansion to the CNMI's southern-most island.

Each of the students received high-quality Daiwa fishing rods, lines, hooks, tackle boxes, and lure-tying handbooks. The rods were sourced through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and the tackle boxes and handbooks were given to TTT by Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

Sophomore student Landon Atalig was one of the 13 to receive new gear. He was a part of team *Hagu Reel*, who placed first at TTT's Youth

Experiential Derby that was held on June 12 at the Smiling Cove Marina. His team reeled in a 100-lb marlin. He was excited to receive gear on Saturday, and encouraged RHI students who are still considering joining TTT to give it a try. "They should join us, because it makes a big difference and helps the younger generation," said Atalig.

In his remarks at the event, TTT president Gene Weaver said the organization already had expansion plans in the works since last year, but had to put these plans on hold due to the pandemic. Starting with Tinian on April 24 and followed by Rota on May 1, TTT was able to follow through on expansion and launched four-month pilot programs on Tinian and Rota this year.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## HOTEL

From Page 1

rector Priscilla M. Iakopo said they don't know yet which hotel will be used for this purpose. She said the process to select a hotel for the hybrid quarantine facility is currently in the "request for proposal" process and that it is being done in coordination with and approval of the Office of the Attorney General.

"For the hybrid quarantine facility, what was proposed is that upon arrival in Day 1, all passengers will be transported to the hybrid quarantine facility," Iakopo said.

It was earlier reported that the last day to submit an RFP to MVA is this

Wednesday, June 23.

Iakopo said the hybrid quarantine hotel employees would have to test negative in order to be released from the facility.

MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo said the rationale behind it is to keep the community safe.

Alepuyo said they made it clear to all the hotels that are interested in this RFP that not only would they dedicate their entire facility but their staff as well.

"So let's say for example it's PIC [Pacific Islands Club] that's chosen. So PIC would not be open to any members of public. The only people that will be in PIC will be the tourists that are coming in," she said. In addition, PIC staff will also be housed

in PIC as they will not be allowed to leave the hotel.

After five days, if those hotel staff are done with what they're doing, they have to test negative and then they're released, Alepuyo said.

"It's part of the contract. They don't have to respond to the RFP if they don't want to. But it is a necessary requirement in order to keep our community safe," Alepuyo pointed out.

Sablan said she's just curious logistically as how would that work to require people who are residents here to stay at the quarantine facility.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## SENATOR

From Page 1

Act request to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, requesting production of documents relevant to PUA/FPUC issuance, asking Benavente to submit to her office within 10 calendar days all internal allotment advices related to PUA and PFUC funding.

She also requested, among other documents, the de-obligation documentation of the \$14.9 million overpayments collected and returned to federal grantor as stated during Labor's appearance in the Senate chambers last Feb. 3.

DeLeon Guerrero later told *Saipan Tribune* that she made the OGA request because she has been receiving a lot of messages from applicants that are still waiting for their application/

benefits status.

"It is heartbreaking to see and hear so many families suffering," she said.

As of press time Thursday, *Saipan Tribune* was awaiting comments from Office of the Governor press secretary Kevin Bautista.

DeLeon Guerrero said her first OGA request was early last February to the Secretary of Finance office and that she was provided a single fund status sheet dated Jan. 31, 2021. The senator said her review of this single fund status sheet prompted her to request for more documents. To date, she has not received any of the additional documents, despite the numerous follow ups on the additional documents from her visit to the Secretary of Finance office on Feb. 8, 2021.

"These events led to my OGA letter to the CNMI DOL secretary," DeLeon Guerrero said.

The other documents she is seeking in her OGA request, include documentation on Internal Revenue Service set-asides of \$13.6 million as shown on a Jan. 31, 2021 fund status report, drawdown receipts for PUA and PFUC funds from the federal PMS, and most recent fund status reports for PUA and PFUC.

The senator is also requesting PUA and PFUC approved implementation plan(s), all PUA and FPUC funding award notices and corresponding funding rescissions (the act of rescinding or cancellation), all press release statements on PUA data, and contract documents pertaining to third-party data management vendor as stated by Patrick Guerrero at his Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee appearance for Lost Wages Assistance oversight last June 1.

## T'WAY AIR

From Page 1

cially resume the route.

"[T'way Air] is still waiting to get the approval of the Korean government. This date remains tentative," she said.

T'way is a low-cost Korean airline that started offering daily flights to and from Korea in 2016. The airline initially reduced its weekly Saipan flights from 14 to four on March 1, 2020, before completely suspending the flights on March 28, 2020.

T'way is just one of two other South Korea-based airlines set to resume its Saipan route next month. Jeju Air plans to resume its Incheon-Saipan route on July 10 while Asiana

Airlines is set to resume on July 17.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Jeju Air has been approved by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation of Korea to fly into the CNMI in anticipation of its participation in the CNMI's Tourism Investment Program, or TRIP. The plan is for Jeju Air to have weekly regularly scheduled flights, which will hopefully begin on July 10.

The TRIP program was released to the public earlier this month. Essentially, it is a set of travel protocols intended to revive the CNMI's tourism industry. It is a pilot program that will run for two months and offers incentives to partners who will take part in it, while also prioritizing the health and safety of people in the CNMI.

As part of the incentives offered to airlines, flights below 40% load will be incentivized by the CNMI government, provided that tickets prices are to be sold at \$400. Airplane seat load of over 40% will not get an incentive.

Meanwhile, a charter flight from Asiana Airlines is set to arrive on July 17 followed by a regular once-a-week service targeted for July 24.

The Asiana flight, which will reportedly use a 174-seater A321, expects to leave Incheon at 9am and return the same day, departing at 4pm from Saipan and arriving at Incheon at 7:40pm.

*Korea Joong Ang Daily* reports that the airline hopes to activate international travel and the airline market with the resumption of the Saipan route as the first step.

## ONLY

From Page 1

Because of this, the Department of Community & Culture Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program and the Public School System's Child Nutrition Program have extended the P-EBT applications submission deadline to June 25, 2021. The original deadline was last Friday, June 11.

P-EBT is a federal program that will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million that will benefit approximately 11,650 children. PSS' CNP and DCCA's NAP are partnering to administer the program.

NAP administrator Walter Macaranas said Thursday that the reason for the deadline extension was that dozens of households failed to submit their applications on time and have requested the State Board of Education for the extension.

With the new June 25 deadline, P-EBT benefits are now expected to be distributed this August and not next month as they had originally anticipated, Macaranas said. He said the definite schedule and details of the distribution will be published at a later date.

He said P-EBT applications will be accepted until 4:30pm, Friday, June 25, at the PSS CNP office at house number 1251, located on the street near the Medicaid Office on Capital Hill. Applications will also be accepted at the NAP office in As Lito by 4:30pm of June 25.

"There will be no further application extensions," Macaranas said.

As of last Tuesday, the CNP office has received 5,313 P-EBT applications on Saipan, 288 on Tinian, and 233 on Rota, for a total of 5,834.

Macaranas said children who live in the same household are included in the same application.

"If a household has four children, the household should submit only one application, not four applications," Macaranas said.

PSS CNP director Dale Roberts said Wednesday that of the 5,834 applications they've received, they have already verified 4,884. Roberts said they are continuing to process

applications and will be progressing with remaining and incoming applications.

Roberts said they are also addressing the applications with issues that will require CNP staff to contact applicant households to resolve those issues. He said the common issues encountered are those with individuals who signed the application but were not registered as a parent or guardian on the school's record.

Verified applications, which are applications that have been processed, are published in the CNP page of the PSS website, which lists the application numbers that are considered approved. Households are urged not to call the CNP office to follow up on their applications, but are requested to visit the PSS website regularly. "As staffing is limited, calling the CNP office to follow up slows down the processing," Roberts said.

The CNP office will be making calls to households that have issues in their application.

P-EBT is a program that provides benefits to school-aged children who lost access to school meals because their school is closed or operating with reduced in-person attendance due to COVID-19 covering the school year 2020-21.

A school-aged child is defined as a child enrolled in a public or private school beginning from pre-school to Grade 12 for school year 2020-21.

Roberts said all schools had reduced in-person attendance or were closed for at least five consecutive days. Therefore, he said, all children in pre-school to Grade 12 will be eligible for P-EBT based on their respective school's predominant schedule such as the number of closed days and the number of reduced in-person per month for school year 2020-21.

P-EBT benefits will be retroactive to the start of school year 2020-21.

Macaranas said P-EBT is extended to children enrolled in Early Head Start and daycare, but only those who are part of households receiving NAP benefits.

"Essentially, what this means is that P-EBT is extended to NAP-enrolled children under age 6," he said.



# Probe on Torres’ expenditures starts Wednesday with 3 witnesses

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee will start its in-

## Rota reviving past youth programs on the island

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
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REPORTER

**ROTA**—Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and the 18th Rota Municipal Council are working closely to revive youth programs on Rota beginning this summer.

Rota Mayor’s Office spokesman Ivan Mereb said in an interview last Saturday that Atalig and the Rota Municipal Council are spearheading the first-ever revival of motocross events on Rota, and already have plans to restart the Rota Little League Association and the Youth Soft-

vestigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres’ expenditures this Wednesday, with three witnesses summoned to appear.

Committee chair Rep. Celi-na R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said

ball program soon.

In line with this, Rota’s lead-ership held an event on May 28 that was both a soft opening of the island’s new motocross track and a celebration of the revival of the Youth Motocross program. Saipan Tribune archives show that the last time a Rota motocross event was reported on was in 2004.

Rota leadership also celebrated the restarting of its Rota Youth Softball program with an opening ceremony last June 3.

“These are...run by [non-

Thursday that two of the po-tential witnesses have already received the committee’s 1309 letters, asking them to appear before the committee at 2pm.

She said the third person

governmental organizations], but the Mayor’s Office as well as the 18th RMC are going to join hand-in-hand on this, take the lead, and sup-port,” said Mereb.

In a separate interview, Atalig said that he will continue to be an advocate for youth programs. “I’m all in support of any program for our youth here. After all, they’re the next generation. I want them to take advantage of the oppor-tunities we present to them. ...I’m all for them to improve their lives,” said Atalig.

would be served the 1309 let-ter last Thursday night.

A Letter 1309 in the Com-monwealth Code refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

Babauta said they are very cautious because they don’t want to witnesses destroying any evidence. “We would like to get to the truth,” she said.

Babauta announced last Fri-day the start of the investigation pertaining to Torres’ expendi-tures related to COVID-19 pro-curement, Imperial Pacific Inter-national (CNMI) LLC matters, and travel and reimbursements.

At Friday’s JGO meeting, House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs chair Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) stated that the “history of fraud, waste, and abuse within the Ex-ecutive Branch and the blatant

disregard and disre-spect toward the citi-zens of the Common-wealth by Torres” has the citizens crying to end the injustice.

During the public comment portion of the JGO meeting, Sen. Edith E. DeLe-on Guerrero (D-Saipan) said it’s quite a relief in a sense that, finally, there’s going to be some discussions and also subpoenas for certain individ-uals, department heads, and appointees of this government to answer to the people and to answer to the committee about the “abuses of government on funding and the use of public funds for personal gain.”

“In my opinion, certain elect-ed officials, I would say that they consider this position as a way



**Camacho**


to have some kind of windfall, which is very unfortunate because... we get to see that a lot happening as we speak,” DeLeon Guer-rero said.

She urged the JGO Committee members to be diligent in con-

ducting the investigation. “Sub-poena everybody and anybody that may have been involved in the acts against the people of this Commonwealth,” she said.

Press secretary Kevin Bau-tista on Sunday characterized the JGO investigation as a po-litical tactic.

Bautista said the JGO meet-ing was characterized by choreographed speeches and public comments by a sitting senator who should be focused on senatorial issues.



Faith, Hope and

**KARIDAT**

Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

### Request for Proposal for Hardscaping

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform hardscaping repairs at the Sister Remedios Community Center in Chalan Kanoa. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950 by July 23, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

**I. Contents of Proposal:** The following information must be included in the Hardscaping Proposal:

- A. Title Page Containing
  - 1. RFP Subject
  - 2. Name of the Firm
  - 3. Local Address
  - 4. Telephone Number(s)
  - 5. Email address
  - 6. Name of contact person
  - 7. Submission date

**II. Transmittal Letter:**

- A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
- B. State all inclusive fees for which the hardscaping will be performed.

**III. Firm Profile:**

Provide a brief description of you firm’s personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced.

**IV. Proposal Evaluation Criteria: The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following hardscaping criteria.**

Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.

- 1. Hardscaping coverage
  - A. Remove and replace 725 LF of Chain Link Fence 5 FT high with 2 FT Concrete block Retaining wall, fence posts are 2.5 IN DIA 10.5 FT centers with 2.5 IN DIA contiguous top rails.
  - B. Remove and replace 800 LF of Chain Link Fencing, Fence is 6 FT high with 2 FT concrete block retaining wall, fence posts are 2.5 IN DIA on 10.5 FT centers with 2.5 IN DIA contiguous top rails.
  - C. Remove and replace Flag Pole, 1 each Flag Pole, 22.5 LF.
  - D. Replace 1 each Wooden Playground equipment with a rock wall, tube slide, regular slide and tower.


Project Notes: The fencing is perimeter fencing for the facility, not a stand-alone fence. The GPS per the SIR for the perimeter fence is: LAT: 15.1482050, LONG: 145.7031512.

- 2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
- B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
  - 1. Size and structure of the firm
  - 2. Ability to maintain continuity of project
  - 3. Experience of the firm
- C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered
  - 1. Supervision to be exercised over the construction team
- D. Contractor will be responsible for acquiring all required permits such as but not limited to: Historic Preservation and Zoning Permits.

**V. Hardscaping Administration Matters:**


- A. Hardscaping Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials
  - 1. Karidat’s Board of Directors, the Executive Director and the Administrative Officer, FEMA Representatives, CNMI Public Assistance Office Representatives.
- B. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on July 30, 2021.
- C. The hardscaping field work must be completed in 30 days of notice to proceed.

**VI. Confidentiality of Hardscaping Proposals:** All hardscaping proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled “CONFIDENTIAL” and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat’s Office located at the Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan.



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: 235-5131



### WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2020 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2020 and to learn more about your drinking water.

**For Saipan, go to** <https://www.cucgov.org/spn2020/>  
**For Tinian, go to** <https://www.cucgov.org/tin2020/>  
**For Rota, go to** <https://www.cucgov.org/rota2020/>

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

### RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repodil yóomw 2020 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráagh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóomw schaal llól ráaghil 2020 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

**Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel** <https://www.cucgov.org/spn2020/>  
**Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel** <https://www.cucgov.org/tin2020/>  
**Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel** <https://www.cucgov.org/rota2020/>

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

### RIPOT KUÁLIDÁT HÂNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2020 na Ripot nu i Kuálidát Hânom i CUC managuahayi pá’gu giya on-line! Pá’gu na sâkkan, in na’guahayi siparâo na ripot para kada’ isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottânti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuálidát put i Hânom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan háfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda’ gi hâlum i hânom-mu gi durântin 2020 na sâkkan para un ke’tungu’ mäs put i hânom ni un gigimin.

**Para Saipan, hânao para** <https://www.cucgov.org/spn2020/>  
**Para Tinian, hânao para** <https://www.cucgov.org/tin2020/>  
**Para Luta, hânao para** <https://www.cucgov.org/rota2020/>

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matranslâda, ya malagu’ hâo kumuentusi hâyí put i ripot pat malagu’ hâo kopian pâppit u ma’entrega pat ma-email guatu para hâgu, put fabot hâgan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.



# 'Phase II' for Route 36 project breaks ground

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A \$12 million project to improve the road near the Kingfisher Golf Links area going to Bird Island and the construction of two box culverts broke ground at the Kingfisher Golf Links last Thursday morning, signaling the start of "Phase II" of the project.

Called the Route 36 road improvement project, the Department of Public Works already began work on it last May 24 and will be com-

pleted by May 23 next year. The project's scope of work includes construction and improvement of spans of road near the golf links going to Bird Island and the construction of two large concrete box culverts to greatly improve water drainage to the area.

Present at the ceremony were several members of CNMI leadership, Department of Public Works staff, and staff from contractor RNV Construction. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President

Jude U. Hofschneider, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, Rep. Joel Camacho, and DPW Secretary James A. Ada gave brief remarks before breaking ground.

In his opening remarks, Torres hoped that the improvements to the long, winding portions of Route 36 will be appealing to enthusiasts, tourists and residents alike that enjoy driving on back roads. "This will definitely change the way we market Saipan, not just for tourists but as well as bikers [and other motor-

ists who] can drive around on Sundays and enjoy our islands on the back side," said Torres.

Palacios said that talks to improve Route 36 have been around since the '90s, a time when former governor Juan N. Babauta was still the CNMI's resident representative in Washington, D.C. Palacios said it took decades of coordinating with various government agencies and refining the required funding for the project before it came to fruition last month. "This groundbreaking ceremony is a

testament of over two decades of persistence," said Palacios.

In an interview with DPW Highway Administrator Lorraine S. Villagomez after the event, she explained why "Phase II" came first. "Phase I will happen, but for now we're doing Phase II so that we can connect the culvert so that people can pass through to Bird Island," said Villagomez.

Ruel Villacrusis, who is general manager for contractor RNV Construction, was more than grateful that his company won the contract.

## House passes Hate Crimes bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of the Representatives passed Thursday a bill that provides additional penalties for crimes motivated by



Manglona

hate, like criminal acts against the LG-BTQ+ or against minorities. The bill now

goes to the Senate for action.

All 19 representatives present voted to pass House Bill 22-18, or the Hate Crimes Act of 2021, which was authored by Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota). Manglona was not present at the session as he was attending a Rota Legislative Delegation meeting.

H.B. 22-18 will amend Division 4 of Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code relating to disposition of offenders and sentencing to provide criteria for imposition of enhanced sentencing of defendants for crimes motivated by hate.

Before the lawmakers voted the bill, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) thanked Manglona for championing the CNMI's first hate crimes legislation.

"It is fitting, colleagues, that we would act on this during Pride Month," Sablan said.

She said this is a piece of legislation that is of special importance to the LGBTQ+ members of the community as well as for other protected classes.

LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning.

Sablan said people in the CNMI are blessed to live in a mostly kind and loving community, but sadly there is also hatred and racism. She said there have been crimes here in the CNMI motivated by being against members of the community merely because of who they are, or a particular characteristics they may have, whether it's their gender identify, their ancestry or national origin.

"In passing this bill, colleagues, we make it clear that the CNMI is no place for hatred and that there will be enhanced penalties for criminal acts that are driven by prejudice," she said.

In doing so, Sablan said, the CNMI joins the rest of the nation and so many jurisdictions across the country that have already embraced the same message and policy.

# Labor provides latest federal program updates

The CNMI Department of Labor is providing updates regarding the federal programs it administers such as the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, and Lost Wages Assistance programs.

Since June 16, 2020, the department has received a total of 39,002 claims for the PUA and FPUC programs. Of the total amount received, 21,000 claims fall under the jurisdiction of the CNMI. After a thorough examination of its total claims population, the department identified the remaining 18,002 as belonging to other states/territories.

According to program reports, an estimated 10,252 claims were approved for payouts and 26,241 claims (including non-jurisdiction claims) were denied, leaving roughly 2,509 claims pending adjudication.

As of this release, over \$200 million in PUA and FPUC benefits have been disbursed to eligible applicants. The department estimates that by the

end of the program, approximately \$350 million in benefits will be disbursed.

## CARES, CAA, and ARPA claims

All PUA claims received during the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act pandemic assistance period (Feb. 2, 2020, to Dec. 27, 2020) have been adjudicated and paid out, with the exception of claims that are in the reconsideration or appeals process.

According to the department, 8,226 claims (2,047 of which were brand new claims and 5,603 of which were continued weekly claims) were received during the Continued Assistance Act pandemic assistance period (Dec. 28, 2020, to March 13, 2021). Approximately 3,456 or 42% of those claims have been inspected.

The PUA program is currently accepting initial and weekly paper and online claims submissions for the American Rescue Plan Act

pandemic assistance period, which runs from March 14 through Sept. 4, 2021.

## LWA program updates

The LWA program is a federal program that is administered by the department through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Supplemental wages in the amount of \$300 is provided to PUA recipients of at least \$100 beginning Aug. 1 through Aug. 15, 2020. The CNMI was awarded three weeks of LWA assistance from FEMA.

After receiving approval from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in March 2021, the department commenced work on identifying LWA eligible recipients and issued its first batch of payment disbursements the following month. To date, the department has disbursed \$4.9 million in LWA benefits to 6,298 eligible recipients.

The department continues to work on eligibility verification for the LWA program and estimates that it will release its final batch of LWA payments

by July 2021.

## DOL continues to assist all claimants

The department is obligated to ensure that program integrity persists throughout the various phases of the PUA program.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, "Because the department is obligated to maintain program integrity, it must ensure that it makes every effort to negate or mitigate disbursements of inaccurate or fraudulent payments.

"While maintaining program integrity is certainly important, the department also understands its role in expediting the payment process because it recognizes the economic impact of the pandemic on families," she stated.

The department continues to make itself available for inquiries and urges individuals to email [info@puamarianas.com](mailto:info@puamarianas.com) or call 322-8870/71/72/73/74.

## Further information

Individuals who are deter-

mined eligible for PUA must file weekly claim certifications (to demonstrate their continued eligibility) either in person or online by using any of the filing methods described above. Continued eligibility is determined on a week-by-week basis. Consult the "PUA/FPUC Benefits Rights Information Handbook" found on the CNMI Department of Labor's website at: <http://www.marianaslabor.net>, under "Forms and Publications" for details.

Individuals who willfully conceal material facts or knowingly making false statement(s) to obtain PUA to which they are not entitled will be required to repay all benefits fraudulently collected and may be subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

## Fraud hotline

Individuals are encouraged to call 670-989-9095 to report any perceived instances of wrongdoing or fraud pertaining to the PUA/FPUC programs. (PR)

**ASAN, Guam**—Rear Adm. John V. Menoni relinquished duties as commander of Joint Region Marianas to Rear Adm. Benjamin R. Nicholson during a change of command ceremony held at the Guam High School gymnasium on-board U.S. Naval Hospital Guam in Agana Heights last June 16.

Presiding officer Vice Adm. Bill R. Merz, commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, on behalf of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, presented Menoni with the Defense Superior Service Medal.

The medal cited Menoni for distinguishing himself by superior performance in the position with significant responsibility as the United States senior military official in Guam, the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau. "Your team flawlessly managed critical efforts in providing installation support to 35 Navy commands located on four geographically separate sites across 32,000

# JRM welcomes Nicholson as new commander

acres of land, as well as logistics to vital operational units of 3rd and 7th Fleets," the award citation further stated.

Menoni, as the senior military official in the region, was also credited for superior military and civil affairs acumen, which ensured that the ties between the U.S. and regional allies were strengthened.

In March 2020, the first few cases of COVID-19 were reported in Guam. Together, local and military leaders made strategic decisions early on to work closely and collaboratively to find solutions and to mitigate its impact on the people of Guam and the CNMI. Menoni was recognized for standing firmly at the forefront of this fight, and working alongside Guam Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero with her team to ensure unity of effort.

Incoming JRM commander, Nicholson, who recently



U.S. NAVY/MCS2 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

From left, CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan present Rear Adm. John Menoni a plaque of recognition following the Joint Region Marianas change of command ceremony at Guam High School last June 16, 2021. Menoni will be transitioning to his new position at the helm of Naval Expeditionary Strike Group 2 in Little Creek, Va.

served as executive assistant to the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. is looking

forward to his new role.

After eight years in this region, Menoni said he regards the Mariana Islands as his

second home. He has been assigned commander of Expeditionary Strike Group Two in Virginia. (PR)



## DPW program for HS students 'downscaled' due to COVID-19

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A summer program for high school students that would have allowed them to take part in the National Transportation Summer Institute's summer program in Kentucky had to

be "downscaled" this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program, under the local auspices of the Department of Public Works, is intended to expose high school student to possible engineering career. DPW Highway Administrator Lorraine S. Villagomez said

Thursday that these students would have been in Kentucky right now if not for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funded by the Federal Highway Administration through grants and through collaboration with DPW, this provides an opportunity every

summer for high school students to take part in the summer program in Kentucky, where the students are treated to experiential programs that are intended to get high school students exposed to all kinds of land, sea, and air transportation and interested in a career in engineering. The pandemic, however, made DPW down-

scale this year.

"We're hoping that these students will take interest in and pursue engineering, whether it's [aeronautical] engineering, civil engineering...but because of COVID [this year's program] had to be downscaled, and now we brought [the program] here to the CNMI," said Villagomez, who acknowledged these

high school students at both the groundbreaking ceremony for the traffic light installation project last week and the Route 36 groundbreaking on Thursday.

Villagomez said that high school students apply to be part of the program by submitting essays, which are then reviewed by a panel made up of DPW staff.

## Military trainings to include FDM, Rota, Tinian

**ASAN, Guam**—Government contractors will continue to conduct scheduled surveys in Radio Barrigada until July 2 from 7am to 5pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

Military units will continue to conduct scheduled live fire exercises in Farallon de Medinilla until June 25 from 8am to 7pm. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

Military units will conduct exercises in open ocean, Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area 11, Warning Area 12, Warning Area 13, and Warning Area 517 from June 20 to July 9 from midnight to 11:59pm. Mariners should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity and are advised to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training Dandan-Malojloj, Radio Barrigada, South Finagayan, Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on June 21-24 from 9am to 11:55pm. Blank ammunition will be utilized in Radio Barrigada, Agat Bay, and Outer Apra Harbor. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on June 21-24 from 9am to 11:55pm. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Outer Apra Harbor, Rota, and open ocean today, June 21 from 8am to 6pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Warning Area 11 on June 21-25 from 10am to 8pm. Mariners should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity and are advised to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

Military units will conduct live fire exercises in Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area 11, and Warning Area 13 on June

22-25 from 2-9pm Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the areas for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct explosive detonation training on U.S. Naval Base Guam on June 22-25 from 9am to 1pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the Tinian North Field on June 25-27. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training. **(PR)**

## NMC accepting Framingham applications for fall 2021

Northern Marianas College is accepting applications for a Master of Education Degree with a concentration in International Teaching from Framingham State University.

Framingham State University, in partnership with International Education Programs Inc., a non-profit education organization in Massachusetts, has been offering graduate degree programs abroad for almost 30 years now.

The Master of Education Degree program with a concentration in International Teaching has been offered at NMC for 20 years, with more

than 300 educators graduating from the program. The most recent cohort of educators to undertake this degree program received their degrees in May last year and the current cohort will be receiving their degrees this fall 2021.

Framingham's Master of Education Degree with a Concentration in International Teaching is a special program that was developed for teachers working in American and international schools abroad. The program consists of nine four-credit graduate courses in education, and the successful completion of a comprehensive portfolio.

The courses provide a

background in educational foundations and philosophy, instructional strategies, curriculum design, research, and the teaching of English as a second language.

School superintendents, principals, special education directors, and school counselors are among the very experienced cadre of instructors utilized in these specialized courses. Framingham State University is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The new cohort for the Master of Education degree program is set to begin in the fall semester of 2021 once it meets the

minimum enrollment. Fall 2021 and spring 2022 courses will be held online for all of Framingham International sites, including Saipan. More information on the admissions process may be obtained by emailing Diana B. Hocog at [diana.hocog@marianas.edu](mailto:diana.hocog@marianas.edu).

For students interested in financial aid, the deadline to apply for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, as well as the CNMI Scholarship Graduate Student Loan Program, is Thursday, July 1, 2021. Seating is limited for this upcoming cohort, so those interested are advised to register now. **(PR)**

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# Opinion

Hafa Adair

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### EDITORIAL

## Happy first-ever national Juneteenth

Last Saturday, June 19, 2021, was a day to celebrate. It was a day that saluted history, exalted freedom and held up the best aspects of American democracy. That day did those things because it was the first day in history that America observed an official day of celebration for the end of slavery.

President Joe Biden declared Juneteenth a national holiday Thursday, and we almost certainly wouldn't have had this holiday without the tireless efforts of a 94-year-old Fort Worth, Texas, woman.

It must be said that we've arrived at this milestone much too slowly. Saturday marked 156 years since enslaved people in Texas learned of their freedom. That event, itself, was marked by delay; it took more than two years for news of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, enacted on Jan. 1, 1863, to reach Texas. As recent events have underscored, progress comes slowly on matters of race in this country.

Americans are only now going through an important process of facing the reality of how slavery and racism have deformed our republic. As many untold stories have bubbled to the surface these past few years, politicians, including South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, have taken to calling racism America's "original sin." The fact that there has been no nationwide official holiday marking the end of such an evil institution until now, and the fact that 14 congressmen voted against it, only shows how far we have to go toward redemption.

But Saturday was not a day for bemoaning our shortcomings, because while we must acknowledge our past in truth, we mustn't wallow there in shame. If we choose the path of despair, we will never be able to heal those deformities and become a more perfect union. So Saturday was a day to celebrate, as the parades and feasts and laughter made clear.

And it was a day to thank Opal Lee, the "grandmother of Juneteenth." A retired teacher and lifelong activist from Fort Worth, Lee has lobbied for recognition of this holiday for years. In 2016, at the age of 89, she led walks across the country to raise awareness, collecting more than 1 million signatures and ending with a walk up the U.S. Capitol steps in Washington, D.C.

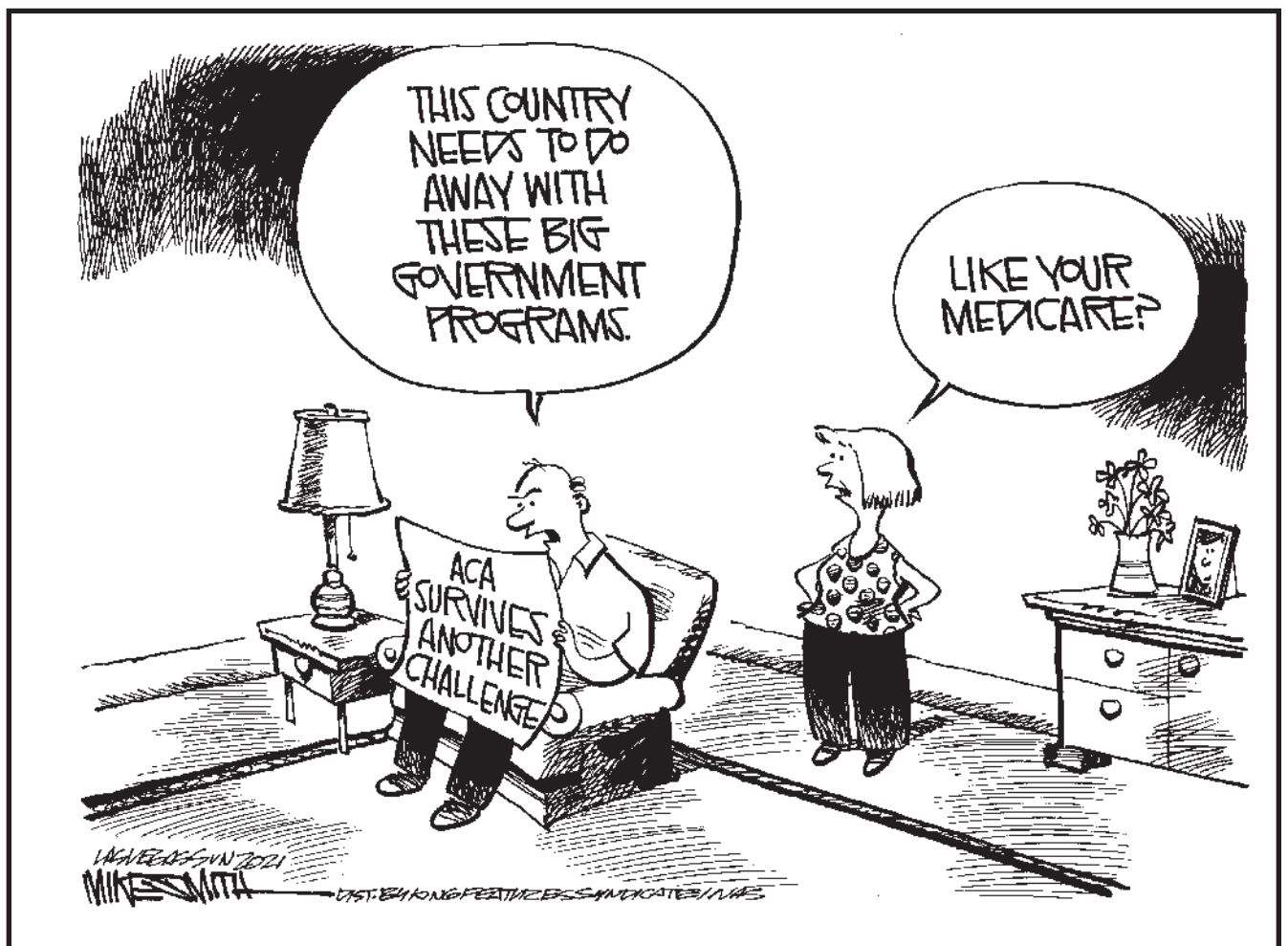
Before President Joe Biden signed the proclamation of the federal holiday on Thursday, he approached her front-row seat in the East Room of the White House, knelt in front of her and took her hand while Vice President Kamala Harris acknowledged her by name.

"I've got so many different feelings all gurgling up here, I don't know what to call them all," Lee said joyfully on CBS This Morning Thursday. We might suggest that one of those feelings is vindication.

Texas Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Houston have worked toward this day as well. They deserve kudos.

This holiday doesn't mark the end of racism in America, but it does mark an important milestone on the path to justice and should remind us that there are brave people fighting for freedom and equity. We're grateful to live in a country that values freedom enough to celebrate it for all its citizens.

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## Supreme Court's ACA ruling is a win for common sense

The first time the Supreme Court decided an Affordable Care Act case, back in 2012, the result was a historic case with a complicated opinion written by the chief justice. It's still studied closely in law schools. This year, the court revisited the ACA—this time as farce.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court rejected a coordinated, partisan challenge to the law by holding that no one, neither individuals nor states, had standing to bring the case to court at all. The 7-2 decision was a nice reminder that most members of the court's conservative majority can still exercise common sense even in cases where the Republican base is fired up.

As you may recall, the first ACA challenge focused on the individual mandate provision of the law, which originally said that everyone must have health care coverage or pay a penalty in the form of the tax. At the time, economists predicted that the whole ACA could go into a death spiral if only sick people bought health insurance and healthy people simply waited until they got sick to buy it. The court narrowly upheld the individual mandate, 5-4.

Then a funny thing happened: The Obama administration never really enforced the individual mandate—and the ACA didn't go into a death spiral. Subsequently, Congress amended the law so that there is no penalty attached to the individual mandate. The law requiring you to have health insurance stayed on the books, but if you don't have health insurance, you don't have to pay a penalty to the IRS.

Trying to be clever, more than a dozen Republican-controlled states challenged the new, no-teeth law in federal court. They argued that Congress lacked the power to establish the mandate, as the four dissenting justices had held in 2012. Then they went on to say that, because the mandate was inextricably linked to the rest of the law, the whole ACA should be struck down. This whole argument was a bit embarrassing to the justices. Most did not want to strike down the entire ACA. However, if the current Supreme Court were to take up the issue of whether the individual mandate was constitutional, it would have been hard for the court's new conservatives—that is, the three Trump appointees who weren't on the court in 2012—to repudiate the votes of their predecessors.

The simplest solution was for the court to say that, because the plaintiffs did not have standing, it did not have to decide the issue of whether the no penalty mandate was still unconstitutional. Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the opinion explaining, sensibly, that no one has standing to challenge a law that is not enforceable.

The basic idea of standing is that there must be a live, real con-

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and host of the podcast Deep Background. He is a professor of law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. His books include *The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President*.



trovercy before the court, exemplified in part by the requirement that a plaintiff has suffered with the court calls "concrete injury." If failing to follow the law has zero consequences, there is no concrete injury to individuals. And the opinion also concluded, logically, that the states aren't injured by the fact that the mandate provision is unenforceable.

It was unsurprising that Chief Justice John Roberts joined Breyer's opinion, given that he had defected from his conservative colleagues in voting to uphold the mandate last time. Justice Clarence Thomas joined, too—writing separately to explain that although he felt sympathy for the conservative dissenters, there really was no standing where there was no injury.

Trump appointees Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett also joined Breyer's opinion. With the remaining liberals, Justices Elena Kagan and Sonya Sotomayor, that rounded out the majority of seven. Kavanaugh and Barrett could safely base their votes on a conservative view of standing. But their votes also likely reflect a commonsense recognition that it would be absurd to strike down the ACA on the theory propounded by the states.

Justice Samuel Alito dissented, joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch. Alito's theory was that the states did have standing because implementing the ACA costs them money and the individual mandate is an inextricable part of the ACA, as the Obama administration long ago claimed. In a rhetorical flourish that bordered on the sad, he wrote: "Even \$1 in harm is enough to support standing. Yet no State has standing?"

For the case to have come out the other way, Thomas, Kavanaugh and Barrett would all have to have bought Alito's argument. No doubt they had subtly different reasons for rejecting it. Thomas, to be sure, is a formalist who does not care about practical outcomes. Yet the fact remains that Kavanaugh and Barrett did not go down the conservative rabbit hole when invited to do so. Sometimes, common sense wins.



# Vietnam, the United States, and the Marianas

**T**he relationship between the United States and Vietnam has been one characterized primarily by war and peace. After America lost the war in Vietnam, it took almost two decades for both nations to restart diplomatic relations. Since the 1990s, the U.S. and Vietnam have worked together on foreign investment, energy, economics, and diplomatic matters.

The biggest ongoing challenge facing the United States when it comes to Vietnam is how to increase lasting positive influence in a country that borders China, that has a communist government and a mostly communist party national assembly not necessarily compatible with American democratic institutions and traditions. Robust U.S.-Vietnamese trade relations and the shared desire to limit China's aggression in the South China Sea have become the foundation upon which both nations continue to work together.

Vietnam and the U.S. have cooperated on naval engagement activities and the U.S. has given Vietnam several surface vessels. Vietnam buys most of its military weapons such as submarines from Moscow, and purchases radar from Israel and missiles from India.

China remains incentivized to continue to penetrate and exert its power in Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone in a variety of ways to include seizing fishing boats, constructing artificial islands in the South China Sea and deploying a \$1-billion oil rig along with 100 ships. China's relationship with Vietnam, unlike the United States, is several centuries old, with deep historical roots and biases, accented by a brief war over Cambodian territorial disputes after the American war in Vietnam ended.

## Virtues/Vices: An Intergalactic Intermission

### LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



### A Little T.O.E. From Joe

(An acrostic Theory of Everything)

**M**any 21<sup>st</sup> century mathematicians and physicists say a Theory of Everything will be the marriage of Einstein's Theory of Relativity and quantum mechanics. The idea behind my T.O.E. is "Entropy" is the ultimate "Evolution" of "Life" as we know it.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that the state of entropy of the entire universe, as an isolated system, will always increase over time. The second law also states the changes in the entropy of the universe can never be negative.

Cosmologists theorize the universe is expanding in all directions. Eventually everything will be so far away from everything else that nothing will be visible. We are heading into inevitable darkness. Life as we know it continues. Here is my attempt to condense a fractious T.O.E into a 14-line sonnet.

E Energy, more needed, heeded, stars seeded, repeated  
N Now, nevermore, after before, in and out the door  
T Tells tales talks the talks withers away then walks  
R Random restrictions; plenty of polarized predictions  
O Organized chaos coalescing into galaxies and stars  
P Particle neutrinos go through your brain and house  
Y Your consciousness from first breath to old age

E Elemental thoughts, emotions, and memories  
V Variety, selection, and micro cellular change  
O Opens minds and chances as a yellow sun cooks  
L Life, living it then not, frozen seas, desert hot  
U Union of zygotes, dust motes, bearded billy goats  
T Time traveling, curvature of time and space  
I Incessant mutations, novel symmetric situations  
O Oceans of neurons, neural synapses and salt  
N Necessity to adapt to gravity and environment

L Love, hate, birth, death, sun, star and planet shine  
I Intelligent beings, feeling, thinking, sensing, seeing  
F Firmament, terra firma, fecund, forged in fire  
E Evolution toward an ultimately dark universe

### Possible business opportunities for Mariana islanders

Despite the political system differences, Vietnam and the United States have a total trade relationship approaching \$100 billion. One million Vietnamese now live in America and its colonial outposts, to include Guam. The Vietnamese community in Guam continues to positively contribute toward the island's success, but the Vietnamese are not viewed as a key tourism arrival market to Guam or the Northern Marianas.

How our Chamorro people might be able to benefit from the massive Vietnam-American trade relationship is to find ways to further insert ourselves into the distribution and supply chains for shoe, timber, furniture, machinery production, coffee, and rice. One challenge facing Marianas leaders is how to leverage our island chain's location, knowing that most key shipping routes to and from Vietnam simply do not come directly through Guam or the Northern Marianas en route to and from the United States and other major markets.

### A shared legacy of violence and war

Both Guam and Vietnam share related experiences tied to war and peace. Exposures of Rainbow Agents such as Agent Orange provide one example. Millions of Vietnamese, and thousands of American military personnel sent to Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange, which was used extensively as a defoliant agent in combat. Military veterans stationed in Guam were also reportedly exposed to Agent Orange during the 1960s and 1970s, which was used to spray base perimeters at Andersen and Big Navy to keep many areas free of weeds and brush.

The American federal government has provided less than \$1 billion to comprehensively clean up select locations in Vietnam that contain high levels of dioxins. Guam has yet to receive full funding from the federal government to clean up high levels of dioxins and it remains unclear if this issue will ever be resolved.

Guam, the Northern Marianas, and Vietnam share a legacy of having unexploded ordnance that was never fully remediated in all locations. The key difference here is that unexploded ordnance came to Guam and the NMI because of the American retaking and taking of our islands from Japanese imperial forces in World War II. In Vietnam's case, millions of pieces of unexploded ordnance remain, and have injured, maimed, or killed civilian Vietnamese after the end of the war

## Russians don't want their COVID vaccine

**B**efore thousands descended on St. Petersburg for Russia's annual economic forum this month, the local governor boasted to radio listeners that no one had held a similar-scale event since the pandemic struck. A few days later, President Vladimir Putin told the audience that his country was in a better virus position than most and would quickly open to vaccine tourists.

The triumphalism proved premature. Russia has seen a spike in COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks, with numbers at the highest in months and the added threat of troublesome new variants. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin declared an extended holiday to curb what he called an "explosive" growth in infections, and on Wednesday went further, ordering the city's service-sector and municipal employees to get vaccinated. The Kremlin has said for months that there are no plans for compulsory jabs.

The problem is not the country's vaccines, which have been available since late last year. Published data suggests they're effective too. Rather, it's the devastatingly slow pace of inoculation, undermined by a toxic mix of complacency and chronic distrust in authority. Even the flagship Sputnik V shot, which Moscow has used to bolster its standing abroad, has been met at home with skepticism. It's an embarrassment for the Kremlin, and an unwanted public reminder of the limits of its power.

Russia has been hit hard by the pandemic. It revised its 2020 COVID-19 death toll higher by nearly 40% earlier this month. New cases, which have remained at more than 7,000 a day since late September, surged to near 13,400 on Wednesday. Moscow and the surrounding region accounted for more than half of the total.

Yet only 10% of Russians have been fully vaccinated. In Moscow, a city of some 12 million, Sobyenin put the number of vaccinated people at more than 1.8 million. By contrast, the city of Beijing has fully vaccinated more than 80% of its adults.

Past infections also provide some level of protection, so this third wave may not be as bad. But the government's going to have to crack vaccine hesitancy to keep from lagging behind a reopening West and a rapidly vaccinating China. A poll published last month suggested 62% of respondents were unwilling to get

### RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at [guamaffairs.substack.com](http://guamaffairs.substack.com). For questions or comments, contact Perez at [rickp7839@gmail.com](mailto:rickp7839@gmail.com).

in the 1970s.

Guam and Vietnam share in having American military personnel being MIA due to wartime casualties. But Vietnam also has thousands of its people who were killed by American military personnel whose remains were never found. Guam has a similar experience tied to World War II where hundreds of our people were not found after having been killed by Japanese forces.

Guam and Vietnam are also connected through the over 100,000 Vietnamese refugees who were brought to the island by the Pentagon for further processing to the continental U.S. after the war ended.

### What we can learn

As is the case with the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, Vietnam remains intimately interconnected to China through massive trade relationships. For our Chamorro civilization, we remain incentivized to understand the deep historical and present-day trade relations that China continues to embark upon and how it has been used to shape international relations and security.

On matters of human rights violations, the United States has taken issue with several breaches sponsored by the communist party of Vietnam. Oddly enough, the United States remains mute and rather tone deaf to the ongoing human rights violations of the Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands tied to political injustice, environmental injustice and ancient human resource corridor injustices seen with the ongoing military buildup. This contradiction will not wither away anytime soon and remains the Achilles heel of American national security policy in the Western Pacific region.

### By CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES

Bloomberg Opinion



Clara Ferreira Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues. Previously, she was an associate editor for Reuters Breakingviews, and editor and correspondent for Reuters in Singapore, India, the U.K., Italy and Russia.

vaccinated, while a separate survey showed 55% of respondents weren't afraid of contracting the virus. Without widespread inoculation, the COVID-19 tail will be long—and Moscow's jab diplomacy will look painfully hollow. Russia's June surge is a warning to other wealthier vaccine laggards, including Hong Kong, where mistrust in government runs high, or slow-moving Japan. But it's a pricklier problem for Putin, especially ahead of September parliamentary elections. The upbeat all-is-well narrative of the past months makes it harder to convince people to get their jabs now without something of an about-turn.

It's a painful own-goal for the country. Russia rushed to become the first nation to approve a COVID-19 shot, but it dragged its feet on peer-reviewed data. And while it moved swiftly to start its mass vaccination campaign, Putin didn't lead the way. When he was finally inoculated, he chose to do so behind closed doors, an uncharacteristic display of coyness. He would not, he said, be a "performing monkey."

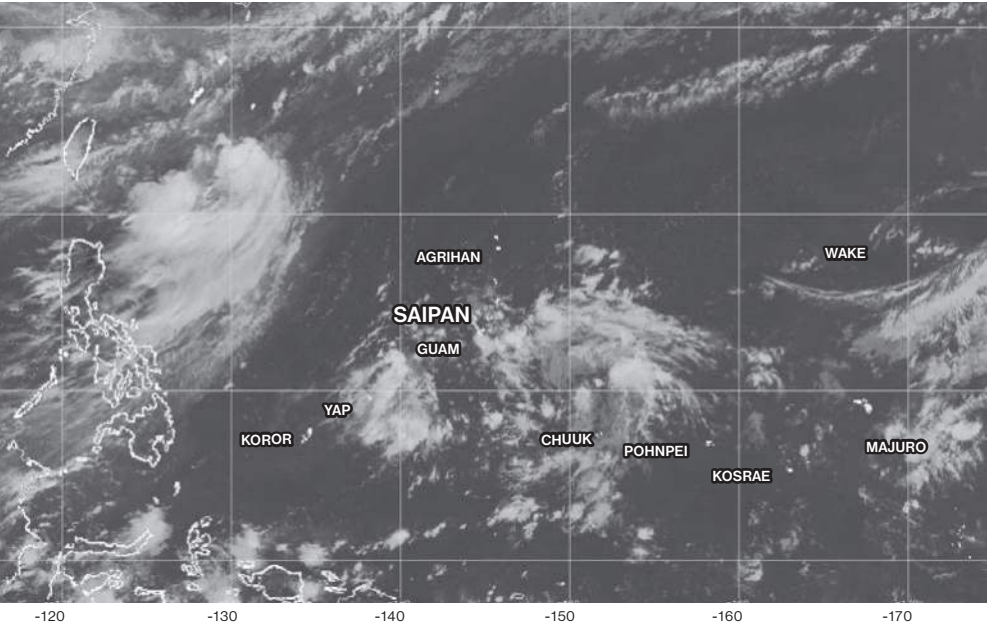
Vaccines have not been a sufficiently pressing priority. Now officials will have to tolerate alternative local approaches, as in hard-hit Moscow, where Sobyenin has taken a tougher line throughout the pandemic.

Ultimately, the Kremlin can silence political opponents, but it can't quash popular discontent or rapidly fix the distrust that keeps people from inoculation centers. That will have economic as well as political consequences for a country that, while it's done better than many during the pandemic, is grappling with rising food prices and contracting real disposable incomes.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light winds and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:15 AM	3:08 PM
Tuesday	-	3:02 AM	4:10 PM
Wednesday	-	3:53 AM	5:16 PM
Thursday	-	4:50 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	-	5:52 AM	7:28 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
London	Rain	72° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	80° / 63°	
Osaka	Rain	81° / 73°	
Paris	Thunderstorms	81° / 63°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 70°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°	
Salem	Sunny	88° / 65°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	80° / 49°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 66°	
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 70°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 60°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:47 AM	High Tide	2.20	
10:53 AM	Low Tide	0.31	
5:25 PM	High Tide	1.82	
10:36 PM	Low Tide	1.13	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>								

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily			
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1203 9:00 9:15 Daily			
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1204 10:00 10:15 Daily			
			Daily	1205 11:00 11:15 Daily			
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
ROTA TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily			
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily			
			Daily	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily			
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	1211 17:00 17:15 Daily			
				1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
GUAM TO ROTA				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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# Business

## Boeing’s newest version of the 737 Max makes first flight

**SEATTLE (AP)**—Boeing’s newest version of the 737 Max jetliner completed its first test flight Friday in a move that the company hopes will signal improving fortunes for its most important plane.

A few hundred employees watched the plane take off from Renton, Washington. As is typical for a first test flight of a new plane, the only people on board were the two pilots, Jennifer Henderson and Jim Webb.

The pilots flew for about 2 1/2 hours over Washington state and did a touch-and-go maneuver at an airport near Moses Lake, Washington, before returning to land at Boeing Field in Seattle, about 7 miles (11 kilometers) from where they left.

The Max 10 is a slightly larger version of Max jets that are already flying. It is designed to seat up to 230 passengers and compete with the A321neo from European rival Airbus.

Chicago-based Boeing expects to begin delivering Max 10s to airlines in 2023.

Max jets get better fuel mileage than previous versions of



AP  
After landing, the final version of the 737 MAX, the MAX 10, taxis towards the Seattle Delivery Center at Boeing Field after a trip to Eastern Washington Friday June 18, 2021.

### Bank of Hawaii honored Juneteenth

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—In light of President Biden signing legislation on Thursday, June 17 establishing Juneteenth, or June 19, as a new federal holiday, Bank of Hawaii gave each of its employees a floating holiday.

“Juneteenth is a symbolic day, one that is culturally important to so many Americans, and Bank of Hawaii is committed to supporting our employees with the time needed to reflect,” said Peter Ho, chairman, president and CEO of Bank of Hawaii.

Because the holiday fell on a weekend, and some Bank of Hawaii branches were scheduled for business, employees were allowed to coordinate their day off with pay anytime throughout the remainder of the year.

Bank of Hawaii is committed to upholding the principles of diversity, equality and inclusion, values that are woven into the organization. As part of its commitment to supporting, educating and bringing awareness to the community, Bank of Hawaii is one of many spon-

sors for an upcoming panel discussion presented by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association-Hawaii chapter, the Japanese American Citizens League of Honolulu, and the ACLU of Hawaii. “A Conversation on Race in Hawaii—The Future: We Must Respond” is the second in the series, and features leaders from across the community discussing issues of race. The free webinar is scheduled for July 15 at 5pm, is open to the public, and will feature the following panelists:

- Justin Koller, Kauai Prosecuting attorney
- Dr. Akiemi Glenn, executive director, The Pōpolo Project
- Michelle Kauhane, SVP, Community Grants and Investments, Hawai‘i Community Foundation
- Dean Camille Nelson, University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law
- Patrick McGuirk, chief general counsel, Bank of Hawaii

The public may click here to register for the July 15 panel discussion. (PR)

Link:

[https://bankoh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vW-EnSvIQTViRMv1xjRrBPQ](https://bankoh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vW-EnSvIQTViRMv1xjRrBPQ)

Boeing’s venerable 737. Airlines began using the plane in 2017, but Max 8 and Max 9 planes were grounded worldwide for nearly two years after crashes in October 2018 and

### US stocks slump; S&P 500 has its worst week since February

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Stocks sank again on Wall Street Friday, knocking the S&P 500 to its worst weekly loss since February, as more steam comes out of banks and other stocks that soared earlier this year with expectations for the economy and inflation.

The S&P 500 fell 55.41 points, or 1.3%, to 4,166.45 in a widespread slump. It was the worst day for the index in a

March 2019 killed a total of 346 people.

U.S. regulators cleared the way for Max jets to resume flying late last year after Boeing made changes, including overhauling

month as unease grows about the Federal Reserve making plans to eventually offer less help to markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 533.37 points, or 1.6%, to 33,290.08, and the Nasdaq composite fell 130.97, or 0.9%, to 14,030.38.

Investors are still recalibrating their moves following the Federal Reserve’s signal this week that it may raise short-

flight-control software that played a role in the crashes. This spring, about 100 new Max jets were idled for several weeks because of an unrelated problem with electrical grounding of

term interest rates twice by late 2023, earlier than expected. The Fed also began talks about slowing its bond-buying program that’s helping to keep longer-term rates low. On Friday, St. Louis Federal Reserve President James Bullard said on CNBC his personal prediction was that the first rate increase may come as soon as next year.

It’s an acknowledgment that a rebounding economy with

cockpit instruments.

The grounding of Max jets and reduced demand for planes because of the pandemic pushed Boeing Co. to an \$8.4 billion loss last year.

near-record prices for homes and stocks may not need super low rates much longer. A recent burst of inflation may also be upping the pressure. But any pullback in Fed support would be a big change for markets, which have been feasting on ultra-low rates for more than a year. It marked a “U-turn on Easy Street,” as strategists at BofA Global Research described it.

### Judge rules for Florida on CDC order blocking cruise ships

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** (AP)—A federal judge on Friday ruled for Florida in a lawsuit challenging a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order making it difficult for cruise ships to resume sailing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

U.S. District Judge Steven Merryday wrote in a 124-page decision that Florida would be harmed if the CDC order, which the state said effectively blocked most cruises, were to continue.

The Tampa-based judge granted a preliminary injunction that prevents the CDC from enforcing the order pending further legal action on a broader Florida lawsuit.

“This order finds that Florida is highly likely to prevail on the merits of the claim that CDC’s conditional sailing order and



In this June 20, 2016 file photo, the Royal Caribbean cruise ship Empress of the Seas heads out of PortMiami, in Miami Beach, Fla.

return to mediation to attempt to work out a full solution—a previous attempt failed—and said the CDC could fashion a modification in which it would retain some public health authority.

The CDC first flatly halted cruise ships from sailing in March 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic, which had affected passengers and crew on numerous ships. Then the CDC on Oct. 30 of last year imposed a four-phase conditional framework it said would allow the industry to gradually resume operations if certain thresholds were met.

the implementing orders exceed the authority delegated to the CDC,” Merryday wrote.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody praised the decision in a statement Friday.

“Today’s ruling is a victory for the hardworking Floridians whose livelihoods de-

pend on the cruise industry,” said Moody, a Republican. “The federal government does not, nor should it ever, have the authority to single out and lock down an entire industry indefinitely.”

While the CDC could appeal, Merryday ordered both sides to



# Nation

## ‘Protected them to death’: Elder-care COVID rules under fire

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbara and Christine Colucci long to remove their masks and kiss their 102-year-old mother, who has dementia and is in a nursing home in Rochester, New York. They would love to have more than two people in her room at a time so that relatives can be there too.

“We don’t know how much longer she’s going to be alive,” Christine Colucci said, “so it’s like, please, give us this last chance with her in her final months on this earth to have that interaction.”

Pandemic restrictions are falling away almost every-

where—except inside many of America’s nursing homes. Rules designed to protect the nation’s most vulnerable from COVID-19 are still being enforced even though 75% of nursing home residents are now vaccinated and infections and deaths have plummeted.

Frustration has set in as families around the country visit their moms and, this Father’s Day weekend, their dads. Hugs and kisses are still discouraged or banned in some nursing homes. Residents are dining in relative isolation and playing bingo and doing crafts at a distance. Visits are limited and must be kept short, and are cut off en-

tirely if someone tests positive for the coronavirus.

Family members and advocates question the need for such restrictions at this stage of the pandemic, when the risk is comparatively low. They say the measures are now just prolonging older people’s isolation and accelerating their mental and physical decline.

“They have protected them to death,” said Denise Gracely, whose 80-year-old mother, Marian Rauenzahn, lives in a nursing home in Topton, Pennsylvania.

Rauenzahn had COVID-19 and then lost part of a leg to gangrene, but Gracely said what she struggled with the

most was enforced solitude, going from six-day-a-week visits to none at all.

Rauenzahn’s daughters eventually won the right to see her once a week, and the nursing home now says it plans to relax the rules on visits for all residents in late June. But it has not been not enough, as far as Gracely is concerned.

“I believe it’s progressed her dementia,” Gracely said. “She’s very lonely. She wants out of there so bad.”

Pennsylvania’s long-term care ombudsman has received hundreds of complaints about visiting rules this year. Kim Shetler, a data specialist in the ombudsman’s office, said some

nursing homes’ COVID-19 restrictions go beyond what state and federal guidelines require. Administrators have been doing what they feel is necessary to keep people safe, she said, but families are understandably upset.

“We’ve done our darndest to advocate for folks to get those visitation rights,” she said. “It’s their home. They should have that right to come and go and have the visitors that they choose.”

A recent survey by National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, an advocacy group, found time limits on visits remain commonplace, ranging from 15 minutes to two hours. Some facilities lim-

it visiting hours to weekdays, making it difficult for people who work during the day, or restrict visits to once or twice a week.

Rauenzahn’s Pennsylvania nursing home has been limiting most residents to a single, 30-minute visit every two weeks.

Federal authorities should “restore full visitation rights to nursing home residents without delay,” Consumer Voice and several other advocacy groups said in a June 11 letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Residents are “continuing to suffer from isolation and decline because of the limited visitation permitted in the current guidance,” the letter said.

## Juneteenth, recalling end of slavery, is marked across US



Opal Lee, 94, walks towards downtown during the first nationally recognized Juneteenth holiday on Saturday, June 19, 2021 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Parades, picnics and lessons in history were offered Saturday to commemorate Juneteenth in the U.S., a day that carried even more significance after Congress and President Joe Biden created a federal holiday to observe the end of slavery.

A new holiday was “really awesome. It’s starting to recognize the African American experience,” said Detroit artist Hubert Massey, 63. “But we still have a long way to go.”

In Detroit, which is about 80% Black, students from University Prep Art & Design School dodged rain to repaint Massey’s block-long message, “Power to the People,” which was created last year on downtown Woodward Avenue.

The ‘o’ in “Power” was a red fist in memory of George Floyd and other victims of excessive force by police,

Massey said.

“We did the original,” said Olivia Jones, 15, leaning on a long paint roller. “It’s important that we return and share that same energy.”

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, two months after the Confederacy had surrendered. It was about 2 1/2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in Southern states.

Biden on Thursday signed a bill creating Juneteenth National Independence Day. Since June 19 fell on a Saturday, the government observed the holiday Friday. At least nine states have designated it in law as an official paid state holiday, all but one acting after Floyd, a Black man, was killed

last year in Minneapolis.

In Galveston, the birthplace of the holiday, celebrations included the dedication of a 5,000-square-foot mural titled “Absolute Equality.” Opal Lee, 94, who was at Biden’s side when he signed the bill, returned to Fort Worth, Texas, to lead a 2.5-mile walk symbolizing the 2 1/2 years it took for slaves in Texas to find out they had been freed.

Officials in Bristol, Rhode Island, unveiled a marker that describes the seaport’s role in the slave trade. The marker was placed at the Linden Place Museum, a mansion built by Gen. George DeWolf, who was a slave trader. The Rhode Island Slave History Medalion organization raises public awareness about the state’s role in slavery.

A street in Fort Lauderdale,

Florida, was renamed Saturday for civil rights activists Harry and Harriette Moore. Harry was credited with registering more than 100,000 Black voters. They were killed on Christmas Day 1951—their 25th wedding anniversary—when a bomb exploded under their bed.

The final scene of a movie about the couple, “The Price For Freedom,” was also being shot.

“They were ordinary people who brought about extraordinary change, and we are privileged to pay tribute to them here in Broward County,” county Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness said before the event.

Hundreds of people gathered for a free concert in New York’s Times Square organized by The Broadway League, the trade group for the Broadway entertainment industry. (AP)

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Driver crashes into crowd at Pride parade in Florida; 1 dead

**WILTON MANORS, Fla.** (AP)—A driver slammed into spectators Saturday evening at the start of a Pride parade in South Florida, killing one person and seriously injuring another, authorities said. The pickup truck driver acted like he was part of the Wilton Manors Stonewall Pride Parade but then suddenly accelerated when he was told he was next, crashing into the victims, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said, according to WSVN-TV. Wilton Manors is just north of Fort Lauderdale. Authorities said one of the victims later succumbed to their injuries. The other victim was hospitalized. The driver of the pickup truck was taken into custody. Authorities did not immediately give further details about the victims or say whether they think the crash was intentional. Trantalis said he believes the crash was intentional and an attack against the LGBTQ community.

#### Driver rams cyclists in Arizona race, critically injuring 6

**SHOW LOW, Ariz.** (AP)—A driver in a pickup truck plowed into bicyclists during a community road race in Arizona on Saturday, critically injuring several riders before police chased the driver and shot him outside a nearby hardware store, authorities said. Six people were taken to a hospital in critical condition after the crash in the mountain town of Show Low, about a three-hour drive northeast of Phoenix, police said. Helmets, shoes

and crumpled and broken bicycles were strewn across the street after the crash, and a tire was wedged into the grill of the truck, which had damage to its top and sides and a bullet hole in a window. Two other people went to a hospital themselves, city spokeswoman Grace Payne said, and one of the severely injured was later flown by medical helicopter to a Phoenix-area hospital. The suspect, a 35-year-old man, also was hospitalized in critical but stable condition.

#### Southwest US states bake, wildfire threatens Arizona towns

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The Southwest U.S. continued to bake Saturday, and weather forecasters kept warnings in effect for excessive heat in Arizona, Nevada and desert areas, at least through the weekend. High temperature marks didn’t fall Saturday, but Phoenix reached a sweltering high of 115 degrees (46 C) for the day and Las Vegas hit 111 degrees (44 C). Both were 3 degrees shy of records for the date, forecasters said. Predicted highs on Sunday of 116 degrees (46.6 C) in Phoenix and 113 degrees (45 C) in Las Vegas were expected to fall short of high marks for June 20, the National Weather Service said. But Phoenix did set a record Saturday for consecutive 115-degree (46 C) days, meteorologist Isaac Smith said, and Sunday could extend the record to six days. Neither city was expected to reach record highs on Sunday of 118 degrees (48 C) in Phoenix and 117 degrees (47.2 C) in Las Vegas.



# Asia

## Afghanistan is running out of oxygen as pandemic worsens

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Afghanistan's is racing to ramp up supplies of oxygen as a deadly third surge of COVID-19 worsens, a senior health official told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday.

The government is installing oxygen supply plants in 10 provinces where up to 65% of those tested in some areas are COVID positive, health ministry spokesman Ghulam Dastagir Nazari said.

By WHO recommendations, anything higher than 5% shows officials aren't testing widely enough, allowing the virus to spread unchecked. Afghanistan carries out barely 4,000 tests a day and often much less.

Afghanistan's 24-hour infection count has also continued its upward climb from 1,500 at the end of May when the health ministry was already calling the surge "a crisis," to more than 2,300 this week. Since the pandemic outbreak, Afghanistan is reporting 101,906 positive cases and 4,122 deaths. But those figures are likely a mas-

sive undercount, registering only deaths in hospitals—not the far greater numbers who die at home.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan received 900 oxygen cylinders from Iran on Saturday, part of 3,800 cylinders Tehran promised to deliver to Kabul last week. The shipment was delayed by Iran's presidential elections, said Nazari.

Afghanistan has even run out of empty cylinders, receiving a delivery of 1,000 last week from Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile hospitals are rationing their oxygen supplies. Afghans desperate for oxygen are banging on the doors of the few oxygen suppliers in the Afghan capital, begging for their empty cylinders to be filled for COVID infected loved ones at home.

Abdul Wasi, whose wife has been sick for nearly 10 days, has been waiting four days for one 45-liter cylinder to be filled at the Najb Siddiqi oxygen plant in east Kabul. Scores of mostly men were banging on the 10-foot steel gate of

the oxygen plant. Some rolled their empty oxygen cylinders up against the gate, while others waved small slips of paper carrying the number of their cylinder inside the plant, waiting to be filled.

Wasi said there were no hospital beds for his wife, whose oxygen level hovers around 70-80%. They are rationing her, he said giving her small amounts of oxygen when it drops to around 45-50%.

"How can I do anything else? I have been waiting four days for my cylinder to be filled," he said. The oxygen plant refills cylinders for 400 Afghans (roughly \$5), while in the market it costs 4,000 Afghans (roughly \$50).

For the country's poor—over half of Afghanistan 36 million people according to World Bank figures—the situation has become desperate.

Wasi said on Friday as he waited outside the oxygen plant that a patient on a stretcher was carried to the door while the family begged for oxygen. The patient died.

## 'Sri Lanka ship fire causes major damage'



This photo provided by Sri Lankan Navy shows the sinking MV X-Press Pearl off Colombo port, Sri Lanka, Thursday, June 17, 2021. AP

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—The U.N. representative in Sri Lanka said the sinking of a container ship that caught fire while transporting chemicals off the capital Colombo has caused "a significant damage to the planet" by releasing hazardous substances into the ecosystem.

The Singapore-flagged X-Press Pearl sank off on Thursday a month after catching fire, raising concerns about a possible environmental disaster.

The U.N. said it was coordinating international efforts and helping Sri Lanka in assessing the damage, recovery efforts and preventing such disasters in the future.

"An environmental emergency of this nature causes significant damage to the

planet by the release of hazardous substances into the ecosystem," U.N. Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka Hanaa Singer-Hamdy said in a statement late Saturday. "This in turn threatens lives and livelihoods of the population in the coastal areas."

A U.N. team of oil spill and chemical experts—provided by the European Union—has been sent to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has already submitted an interim claim of \$40 million to X-Press Feeders to cover part of the cost of fighting the fire, which broke out on May 20 when the vessel was anchored about 9.5 nautical miles (18 kilometers) northwest of Colombo and waiting to enter the port.

The Sri Lankan navy be-

lieves the blaze was caused by its chemical cargo, which included 25 tons of nitric acid and other chemicals, most of which were destroyed in the fire. But debris including burned fiberglass and tons of plastic pellets have already polluted nearby beaches.

A ship manifest seen by The Associated Press said the ship carrying just under 1,500 containers, with 81 of those described as "dangerous" goods.

The main concern has been about 300 tons of bunker oil used as fuel for the ship. But officials have been saying it could have burned off in the fire.

Both Sri Lankan authorities and the ship's operator, X-Press Feeders, have said so far there is no sign of an oil spill.

# World

**AS BRAZIL TOPS 500,000 DEATHS**

## Protests vs Brazil president

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)**—

Anti-government protesters took to the streets in more than a score of cities across Brazil on Saturday as the nation's confirmed death toll from COVID-19 soared past half a million—a tragedy many critics blame on President Jair Bolsonaro's attempt to minimize the disease.

Thousands gathered in downtown Rio de Janeiro waving flags with slogans such as "Get out Bolsonaro. Government of hunger and unemployment."

"Brazil is experiencing a great setback. The country was an exemplary country for vaccination in the world. We have widely recognized institutions, but today we are in a sad situation", said Isabela Gouljor, a 20-year-old student who joined the protest in Rio.

Other marchers hoisted posters reading: "500 thousand deaths. It's his fault," alluding to Bolsonaro.

Similar marches took place in at least 22 or Brazil's 26 states, as well as in the Federal District, Brasilia. They were promoted by left-wing opposition parties who have been heartened by Bolsonaro's declining poll



A woman wearing a protective face mask holds a sign with a message that reads in Portuguese; "500,000, government of death" during a protest against Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and economic policies they say harm the interests of the poor and working class, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, June 19, 2021. AP

ratings with next year's presidential race looming.

"Get out Bolsonaro, genocidal," yelled Rio demonstrators, some of them wearing t-shirts or masks with the image of former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva—who leads Bolsonaro in some polls.

In São Paulo, protesters dropped red balloons as a tribute to the victims of the virus.

Bolsonaro's supporters have taken more often to the streets over the past month, in large part because many agree with

his dismissal of restrictions meant to stifle the coronavirus and anger that lockdown measures have hurt businesses.

Critics say such messages, as well as Bolsonaro's promotion of disproven treatments such as hydroxychloroquine, have contributed to the soaring death toll and a sluggish vaccine campaign that has fully inoculated less than 12% of the population. The country of some 213 million people is registering nearly 100,000 new infections and 2,000 deaths a day.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### At least 15 die in multiple attacks near US-Mexico border

**CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP)**—Gunmen aboard a number of vehicles staged attacks in several neighborhoods in the Mexican border city of Reynosa on Saturday, and at least 15 people died in clashes that caused widespread panic, according to local law enforcement. The Tamaulipas state agency coordinating security forces said in a statement that the attacks began in the early afternoon in several neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city, which borders McAllen, Texas. The agency said one person died during an attack on police near a border bridge, but it was not clear if the others were shot in random attacks or were targeted. The shootings mobilized the army, National Guard, state police and other agencies. Authorities said they detained a person who had two women, apparently kidnapped, in the trunk of his car, and said they seized three vehicles. The area's criminal activity has long been dominated by the Gulf Cartel, but there have been fractures within the gang.

#### Hard-line judiciary head wins Iran presidency in low turnout

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Iran's hard-line judiciary chief won a landslide victory in the country's presidential election, a vote that both propelled the supreme leader's protege into Tehran's highest civilian position and saw the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. The election of Ebrahim

Raisi, already sanctioned by the U.S. in part over his involvement in the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, became more of a coronation after his strongest competition found themselves disqualified from running in Saturday's vote. That sparked calls for a boycott and many apparently did stay home—out of over 59 million eligible voters, only 28.9 million voted. Of those voting, some 3.7 million people either accidentally or intentionally voided their ballots, far beyond the amount seen in previous elections and suggesting some wanted none of the four candidates.

#### Rome court convicts 4 men for sexual assault, murder of teen

**ROME (AP)**—An Italian court late Saturday convicted four African men in the drugging, aggravated sexual assault and murder of an Italian teen in Rome, a crime that spurred calls in Italy for quick expulsions of migrants illegally living in the country, state TV and private Italian media said. After some nine hours of deliberation, the court delivered its verdict and sentenced two of the defendants to life imprisonment, Italy's stiffest criminal punishment, and meted out prison sentences of 27 and 24.5 years to the other two, the La Presse news agency said. The body of Desiree Mariottini, 16, was found in October 2018 in an abandoned building used by drug dealers in a neighborhood near Rome's main train station. When arrested, the suspects were found to be lacking documents granting permission for migrants to legally reside in Italy.



# As pandemic eases, many seniors have lost strength, may need rehabilitative services

By JUDITH GRAHAM  
KAISER HEALTH NEWS

Ronald Lindquist, 87, has been active all his life. So, he wasn't prepared for what happened when he stopped going out during the coronavirus pandemic and spent most of his time, inactive, at home.

"I found it hard to get up and get out of bed," said Lindquist, who lives with his wife of 67 years in Palm Springs, California. "I just wanted to lay around. I lost my desire to do things."

Physically, Lindquist noticed that getting up out of a chair was difficult, as was getting into and out of his car. "I was praying 'Lord, give me some strength.' I kind of felt, I'm on my way out—I'm not going to make it," he admitted.

One little-discussed, long-term toll of the pandemic: Large numbers of older adults have become physically and cognitively debilitated and less able to care for themselves during 15 months of sheltering in place.

No large-scale studies have documented the extent of this phenomenon. But physicians, physical therapists and health plan leaders said the prospect of increased impairment and frailty in the older population is a growing concern.

"Anyone who cares for older adults has seen a significant decline in functioning as people have been less active," said Dr. Jonathan Bean, an expert in geriatric rehabilitation and director of the New England Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System.

Bean's 90-year-old mother, who lives in an assisted living facility, is a case in point. Before the pandemic, she could walk with a walker, engage in conversation and manage going to the bathroom. Now, she depends on a wheelchair and "her dementia has rapidly accelerated—she can't really care

for herself," the doctor said.

Bean said his mother is no longer able to benefit from rehabilitative therapies. But many older adults might be able to realize improvements if given proper attention.

"Immobility and debility are outcomes to this horrific pandemic that people aren't even talking about yet," said Linda Teodosio, a physical therapist and division rehabilitation manager in Bayada Home Health Care's Towson, Maryland, office. "What I'd love to see is a national effort, maybe by the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], focused on helping older people overcome these kinds of impairments."

The extent of the need is substantial, by many accounts. Teodosio said she and her staff have seen a "tremendous increase" in falls and in the exacerbation of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"Older adults got off schedule during the pandemic," she explained, and "they didn't eat well, they didn't hydrate properly, they didn't move, they got weaker."

Dr. Lauren Jan Gleason, a geriatrician and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago, said many older patients have lost muscle mass and strength this past year and are having difficulties with mobility and balance they didn't have previously.

"I'm seeing weight gain and weight loss, and a lot more depression," she noted.

Mary Louise Amilicia, 67, of East Meadow, New York, put on more than 100 pounds while staying at home round-the-clock and taking care of her husband Frank, 69, who was hospitalized with a severe case of covid-19 in early December. While Amilicia also tested positive for the virus, she had a mild case.

"We were in the house every day 24/7, except when we had



Large numbers of older adults have become physically and cognitively debilitated and less able to care for themselves during 15 months of sheltering in place.

SATJAWAT BOONTANATAWEEPOL/DREAMSTIME/TNS

to go to the doctor, and when he got sick I had to do all the stuff he used to do," Amilicia told me. "It was a lot of stress. I just began eating everything in sight and not taking care of myself."

The extra weight made it hard to move around, and Amilicia fell several times after Christmas, fortunately without sustaining serious injuries.

After coming home from the hospital, Frank couldn't get out of a chair, walk 10 feet to the bathroom or climb the stairs in his house. Instead, he spent most of the day in a recliner, relying on his wife for help.

Now, the couple is getting physical therapy from Northwell Health, New York state's largest health care system. Just before the pandemic, Northwell launched a "rehabilitation at home" program for patients who otherwise would have seen therapists in outpatient facilities. (Medicare Part B pays for the treatments.)

The program is serving more than 100 patients on Long Island, in Westchester County and in parts of New York City. "The demand is very strong and we're in the process of hiring another 20 therapists," said Nina DePaola, Northwell's vice president of post-acute services.

Sabaa Mundia, a physical therapist working with the Amilicias, said Mary Louise can walk up to 400 feet without a walker, after doing strengthening exercises twice a week over the course of three weeks. Frank had been using a wheelchair and is now regularly walking 150 feet with a walker after more than a month of therapy.

"Older adults can lose about 20% of their muscle mass if they don't walk for up to five days," Mundia said. "And their endurance decreases, their stamina decreases, and their range of motion decreases."

Recognizing that risk, some health plans have been reaching out to older members to assess how they're faring. In Massachusetts, Commonwealth Care Alliance serves more than 10,000 older adults who are poor and eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, the federal-state program for people with low incomes. On average, they tend to have more medical needs than similarly aged seniors.

Between March and September last year, the plan's staffers conducted "wellness outreach assessments" by phone every two weeks, asking about ongoing medical care, new physical and emotional challenges, and the adequacy of available help, among other concerns. Today, calls are made monthly and staffers have resumed seeing members in person.

An increase in physical deconditioning is one of the big issues that have emerged. "We've had physical therapists digitally engage with members to coach them through strength and balance training," said Dr. Robert MacArthur, a geriatrician and Commonwealth Care's chief medical officer. "And when that didn't work, we sent therapists into people's homes."

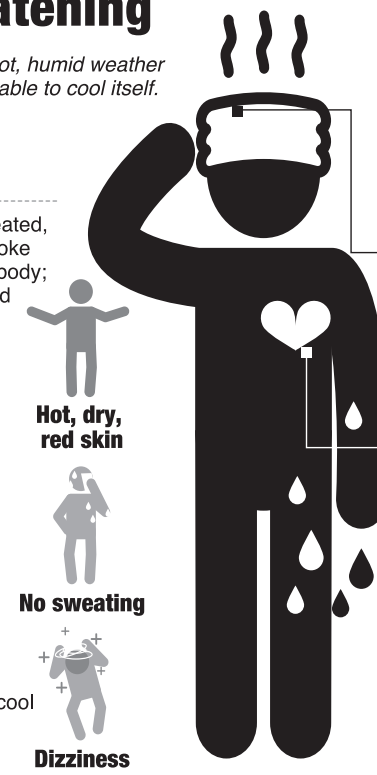
Kaiser Health News (KHN) is a national health policy news service. It is an editorially independent program of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

## When heat becomes life-threatening

Increased physical activity and prolonged exposure to the sun during hot, humid weather can bring on heatstroke, a dangerous condition in which the body is unable to cool itself. Heat exhaustion is a condition in which the body becomes dehydrated.

### Recognizing and treating heat-induced illnesses

	Heat exhaustion	Heatstroke
<b>How it starts</b>	Insufficient water and salt intake are the primary causes; faintness, dizziness and fatigue usually are the first signs	Heat exhaustion, if untreated, can develop into heatstroke as heat builds up in the body; people who aren't treated quickly can die
<b>Skin</b>	Usually cold and clammy, with heavy sweating	Hot, dry and red; perspiration usually stops completely
<b>Pulse</b>	Rapid and weak	Rapid and strong
<b>Body temperature</b>	Usually low or normal	Above 103 F (39.4 C); at 107 F (41.7 C), it usually is fatal
<b>Other symptoms</b>	Thirst, giddiness, weakness and lack of coordination	Fainting or staggering, confusion or delirium
<b>Treatment</b>	Lie down in a cool, shady place; loosen clothing; sip water (unless nauseated); seek medical attention immediately if vomiting occurs	Seek medical attention immediately; move to a cool place; remove clothing; apply a wet sheet or immerse in cool water



### How heatstroke affects the body

Sweat evaporating from the skin cools the body. When it is humid, it is harder to cool off because moisture in the air prevents sweat from evaporating as much

Hot, dry, red skin

No sweating

Dizziness

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Medical Association Encyclopedia of Medicine, Complete Guide to Sports Injuries

Graphic: Staff, TNS



# Life & Style

## Police say 17th century paintings found in highway dumpster

**BERLIN** (AP)—German police appealed Friday for information about the possible owners of two 17th-century

paintings discovered in a highway rest stop dumpster.

Police said a 64-year-old man found the oil paintings at

the rest stop near Ohrenbach in central Germany last month.

He later handed them in to police in the western city of

Cologne.

An initial assessment by an art expert concluded the two framed paintings were origi-

nals, police said.

One is a self-portrait by Pietro Bellotti showing the Italian artist smiling and dating to 1665.

The other is a portrait of a boy by the 17th-century Dutch artist Samuel van Hoogstraten, date unknown.

## Partygoers, police injured at curfew-busting rave in France

**PARIS** (AP)—French police clashed with party-goers as they tried to break up an unauthorized rave in western France, authorities said Saturday. A 22-year-old man lost his hand and several others were injured amid the violence, including police.

The tensions erupted in a field near the Brittany town of Redon on Friday night, just two days before France lifts an overnight virus curfew that's been in place for more than eight months and has prompt-

ed growing frustration among young people.

Police repeatedly fired tear gas and charged clusters of violent partygoers who hurled metal balls, gasoline bombs and other projectiles at security forces, according to images shared online and comments by the top government official in the region, prefect Emmanuel Berthier. Local authorities estimated about 1,500 people took part in the event despite a local ordinance banning it.

Berthier accused the attend-

ees of "extreme" and "inexcusable" violence. It took police more than seven hours to disperse the crowd and authorities were still evacuating people from the field Saturday morning, Berthier told reporters.

Regional prosecutor Philippe Astruc said three investigations are under way into the clashes, including how the 22-year-old lost his hand. Regional gendarme chief Pierre Sauvegrain told France-Info radio that the man was believed to have picked up an object that exploded.

## Queen beams as she returns to Ascot after COVID-19 hiatus

**LONDON** (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II was smiling broadly as she attended the final day of the Ascot races on Saturday, where environmental protesters urged the monarch to press politicians to act faster against climate change.

The 95-year-old queen, a keen racing fan and racehorse owner, has attended Ascot almost every year of her seven-decade reign. She was absent last year, when the event was held without spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic. Her return came two months after the death of her husband, Prince Philip, at 99.

Dressed in a mint-green outfit and matching hat, the queen was applauded by the crowd as she arrived to cheer on four horses she owns that were racing on Saturday. She smiled broadly as she inspected one of her horses, Reach for the Moon,



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II smiles, during day five of the Royal Ascot horserace meeting, at Ascot Racecourse, in Ascot, England, Saturday June 19, 2021.

after it finished a close second.

The annual racing meeting west of London is a heady mix of horses, extravagant headwear, fancy dress, champagne and strawberries with cream.

Protesters from environmental group Extinction Rebellion un-

furled a banner reading "Racing to Extinction" at the racecourse on Saturday. The group said four women glued themselves to their banner and chained themselves to the fence in a protest intended to be seen by the queen. She was not nearby at the time.

## Metal fans mosh at 1st UK live music festival since pandemic

**LONDON** (AP)—Thousands of heavy metal fans were camping, singing—and even moshing—on Saturday at Britain's first full music festival since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The three-day Download Festival, taking place at Donington Park in central England, is one of a series of test events to see whether mass gatherings can resume without triggering outbreaks of COVID-19.

About 10,000 fans, a tenth of the festival's pre-pandemic attendance, secured tickets to watch more than 40 U.K.-based bands including Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Enter Shikari and Bullet for My Valentine.

Attendees all took COVID-19 tests before the event, and don't have to wear masks or follow social distancing rules during the festival.

Promoter Andy Copping said there was a "real sense of euphoria" at the event, which runs through Sunday, despite the wet weather lashing much of the U.K. after several weeks of warm sunshine.

"It wouldn't be Download unless there was a bit of rain," he said.

Concertgoer Alexander Milas said rain and mud would not mar the event.

"In a way it makes it better," he said. "It is amazing how that brings people together. The sheer misery and joy of being

around a lot of like-minded, really wonderful people. I feel like it is perfect because it's like 'Weather be damned, we are going to have a great time.'"

Britain has recorded almost 128,000 coronavirus deaths, the highest toll in Europe. The government has delayed the lifting of remaining social and economic restrictions for four weeks from the planned June 21 date amid a rise in cases driven by the highly contagious delta variant first identified in India.

Health officials are aiming to give everyone 18 and over in the U.K. a first dose of vaccine by July 19, and to have everyone over 50 fully vaccinated with both doses.

## R. Kelly nears OK for new legal team for upcoming trial

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jailed R&B singer R. Kelly will likely get to keep a new lawyer in his federal sex-trafficking case despite questions about the attorney's texts and other communications with one of Kelly's ex-girlfriends.

Kelly, 54, is accused of leading an enterprise made up of his managers, bodyguards and other employees who helped him recruit women and girls for sex. Federal prosecutors say the group selected victims at concerts and other venues and arranged for them to travel to see Kelly.

The Grammy Award-winning singer denies ever abusing anyone.

The hearing on Thursday centered on a potential conflict of interest created by lawyer Nicole Blank Becker if she ever gave legal advice to Azriel Clary, Kelly's former girlfriend who is referred to as Jane Doe #5 in the indictment against him.

Clary once lived with Kelly and another woman, Jocelyn Savage, and was a vocal supporter. After their breakup, she agreed to cooperate with the government and is expected to testify at the trial.

Becker told U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly she had made it clear to both Clary and Savage, "I am Mr. Kelly's lawyer, not theirs." Prosecutors

also said they were not seeking Becker's disqualification, but Kelly still must directly tell the judge he wants her on board.

On her website, Becker describes herself as a former prosecutor in Michigan who is a "powerhouse" at defending people accused of sex crimes.

Donnelly said she still wanted to question Kelly in person before letting him go forward with his new legal team at a trial scheduled to begin in early August.

To make that happen, Kelly's transfer to New York should "happen well in advance of the trial," the judge said. "It's just much better for him to be here."

## Alternative treatments exist to treat impotence

**DEAR ABBY:** I think you missed an important consideration in your March 25 advice to the widower who had had prostate surgery and was afraid to tell a prospective girlfriend he couldn't have sex.

My husband and I are in our 60s and he has a similar condition. But we have become creative, and our sex life is better than it was when we were younger. Penetration is not the only way to share sexual intimacy. In fact, it's overrated.

The only limitation on lifelong sexual satisfaction is your own imagination and inventiveness. Yes, "Going Forward in Virginia" may want to settle for a sexless companionship with his new love, but he sure doesn't have to.

KNOWS IN WEST VIRGINIA

**DEAR KNOWS:** Many readers wrote to me expressing your sentiments. Others shared possible medical solutions for dealing with impotence. Despite the intimate nature of the topic, they were generous in offering support to "Going Forward." Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** "Going Forward" should consult a urologist about his condition. Specifically, he should ask the urologist if a prescription for Tri-Mix would be appropriate. It's a compound of three components that enables an individual with

ED resulting from a prostatectomy to engage in normal sexual relations. It's delivered via a self-administered injection. The urologist will instruct "GF" how to do it.

I had a prostatectomy 12 years ago and experienced ED as a result. I have been using Tri-Mix since then, and I'm happy to say I have continued to enjoy a normal physical relationship with my wife.

TOM IN FLORIDA

**DEAR ABBY:** An inflatable implant may be the answer for "Going Forward." If he is in generally good health, he may be a good candidate for this procedure, which is not considered major surgery and is covered by some insurance policies, including Medicare. The implant is the greatest thing since sliced bread. My wife and I know because I have one. There is some pain during recovery, but it is SO worth it. "Going Forward" should have a conversation with his doctor, who should have already told him about this option.

TESTIFYING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend who insists on bringing food whenever I invite her over for an event (birthday party, Thanksgiving, etc.). It doesn't matter what she cooks, Abby, it's always awful. Everyone tries whatever it is she made, but then

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



spits it out. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't want her to bring anything ever again that isn't store-bought. How can I tell her tactfully?

REPULSED IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR REPULSED:** Tell your generous friend that you appreciate the thought behind what she has been doing, but when you invite guests over YOUR MENU IS ALREADY SET. She is the kind of "helpful" guest who should be "commissioned" to bring a store-bought beverage, dinner rolls or napkins.

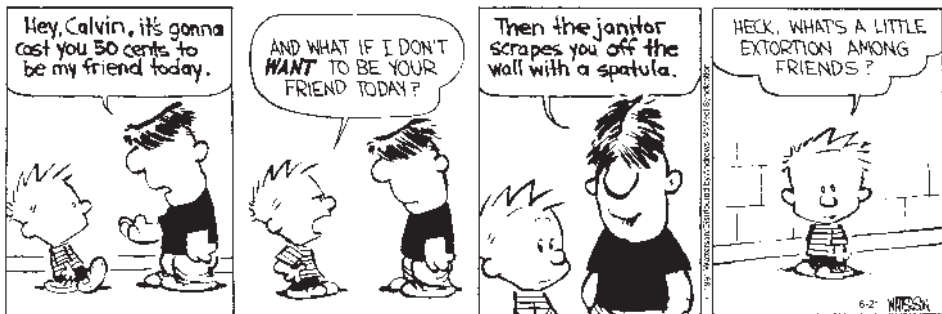
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Spumante source  
5 "O Sole"  
8 Throat clearer  
12 Uses as a platform  
14 Lap dog, for short  
15 Sweet white wine  
16 Raw materials  
17 Knock temple  
18 Asian  
20 Bar twist  
23 Drill  
24 Stew veggies  
25 Cup holders  
28 Devious  
29 Lake flock  
30 — Lingus  
32 Fried quickly  
34 Monster  
35 First-place medal

**DOWN**

1 Ninny  
2 Depot (Abbr.)  
3 Greek cross  
4 Pre-ambles  
5 Car sticker no.  
6 Charged bit  
7 Candy box weight  
8 Orbit point  
9 Protagonist  
10 Scratched (out)  
11 Small plateau  
13 Campus VIP  
19 Story lines  
20 Vinyl records  
21 Morays  
22 Poet Angelou  
23 Sounded sheepish?  
25 Distends  
26 Pasta sauce brand  
27 Lowly worker  
29 Pack cargo  
31 Ump-pala's land  
34 Do to do  
36 Slugger Sammy  
37 Darned  
38 Advertising award  
39 Harangue  
40 Baby-feeding finale  
43 Chemical suffix  
44 Solidify  
45 Right angle  
46 Away from NNW

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

**Last Friday's Answer 06/21**

ANT	WORD	ATAD
MIR	AFAR	TONI
INAJ	JIFFY	BRAS
ROO	S	IBIS
AIIS	INASTATE	
VAI	NOUNS	NEI
INAP	ANIC	EDEN
ASST	PARMA	
GILDA	TACO	
WOOD	INAWHILE	
ETAL	SORE	DIE
NAME	PROD	SNI

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Lana Del Rey, 36; Jussie Smollett, 38; Prince William, 39; Chris Pratt, 42.

**Happy Birthday:** Educate, liberate and turn something that interests you into a hobby or money-making endeavor. Embrace change and be receptive to suggestions. Personal growth will lead to opportunities to soothe the soul and help you let go of negativity and regret. Don't act prematurely; wait until you have sufficient information to share and activate your intentions. Do things your way. Your numbers are 3, 11, 22, 27, 31, 34, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take good care of your health and well-being. Exercising, adopting healthy eating habits and easing stress are in your best interest. Eliminate situations that bring you down, and focus on the people and pastimes that boost your morale. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Look at every angle, call on people who have something to offer and make changes that will help you feel good about your accomplishments and impress someone you love. A transformation you make will help you see your potential. Romance is encouraged. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Observe, mull over your options, make responsible moves. Leave nothing to chance, and you will avoid disappointment. Keep suggestions and plans simple and your overhead minimal. Manage every detail to ensure nothing goes wrong. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Review the past and let it go. Forge into the future with optimism, and do things that bring

you joy. Share your feelings and adjust. Pursue what you feel passionate about, and don't stop until you reach your objective. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Be reasonable, and you'll avoid getting into a spirited discussion that leads to unwanted change. Look at your options and choose what works best for everyone involved. Balance and integrity will encourage better behavior and results. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** A kind gesture will work wonders when you want to get your way. Take the initiative to lend a helping hand if it will encourage others to pitch in and help. A work opportunity is heading your way. Choose your words wisely. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't put your home, health or happiness in jeopardy. Pour your energy into revamping your resume to suit trends. Update your skills and prepare to make a move that will save money and your reputation. Change begins with you. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Explore what's possible. Delve into something you think you'll enjoy. Make decisions that will improve the way you live and do things. Start anew, and it will give you the excitement and adventure you desire. Follow your heart. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Find your voice and say what's on your mind. Incorporate a guideline that is easy to follow and deters anyone from trying to meddle with your plans. Put your energy where it counts the most, and finish what you start. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Be open to suggestions and ready to expand your plans. Taking a unique approach to the way you use your attributes will lead to an exciting option. A moneymaking idea will evolve from a discussion you have with someone like-minded. \*\*\*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A disciplined approach to the way you run your household will ward off anyone taking advantage of you. Put your energy where it counts and brings in the highest revenue. Don't limit what you can do because someone is selfish. \*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** A partnership looks interesting, but before you agree to get involved, iron out any logistics that may cause a problem as you move forward. A commitment to someone special will bring you closer and improve the way you live. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are unique, affectionate and intuitive. You are cautious and curious.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☹☹: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☹☹☹: Aim high; start new projects. ☹☹☹☹: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	2			7	5	1		
		5	8			2		4
6	1		2				3	
8						9	1	
5				8				6
	9	4						7
	8				4		7	9
3		9		1	8			
		2	3	9		5		

Difficulty Level ★

6/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	2	9	7	4	6	8	3	5
6	7	8	9	5	3	1	4	2
3	4	5	2	8	1	7	9	6
8	1	7	4	2	9	6	5	3
2	6	4	5	3	7	9	1	8
5	9	3	1	6	8	2	7	4
4	5	1	6	7	2	3	8	9
7	3	2	8	9	4	5	6	1
9	8	6	3	1	5	4	2	7

Difficulty Level: \*\*\*\*\*

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BARKING

Solution: 9 letters

T G N I L T R A T S P L A Y E  
H A P P Y F X L R P E D E G  
R A G G O R F U O L T A U N O  
E L S U A I F T N A Y N I O W  
A E S I O N E L G R C Y O T H  
T R D G R C R R A O A E V S I  
N T M U T A O T M B T L K O N  
E E O U N W I F S S A P R U E  
M M D S L L O N T B P I A N C  
E P E T O R O U R R S N B D N  
T E R S T I T U A I Y G I S E  
I O O A T T P H N C S P I L S  
C P B O E T S G G W A G P O E  
X L M R D A N G E R N R O U R  
E E T H U N D E R A E F S D P

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6/21

Abrupt, Afraid, Alert, Bark, Baying, Boredom, Cars, Cat, Cough, Danger, Day, Dogs, Emotions, Excitement, Fear, Frog, Gate, Growl, Guests, Happy, Long, Loud, Mournful, Noise, People, Play, Presence, Protect, Puppy, Rapid, Rising, Sharp, Sign, Snarl, Solitary, Sounds, Startling, Stranger, Stutter, Threat, Thunder, Tone, Tow, Uncomfortable, Wag, Whine, Yelping

Last Friday's Answer: Jerusalem

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# Bucks edge Nets in OT in Game 7, withstand Durant's 48



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—A Game 7 thriller, the NBA's first do-or-die game to go to overtime in 15 years, came down to a matter of inches.

If Brooklyn star Kevin Durant was just slightly farther away—or if his foot was slightly smaller—he ends the highest-scoring Game 7 ever by an NBA player with a 3-pointer to win the series.

"We got lucky his toe was on the line and they called it a 2," Milwaukee's Khris Middleton said. "But once he hits that shot, we've got to forget about it. There's still ballgame left. That wasn't the game."

And given a second chance, the Bucks cashed it in for a ticket to the Eastern Conference finals.

The Bucks withstood Durant's NBA-record 48 points in a Game 7, beating the Nets 115-111 on Saturday night.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 40 points and 13 rebounds, and Middleton made the tiebreaking shot with 40 seconds left in OT.

"At the end of the day, I try not to get too high, not to get too low. But I almost got emotional a little bit out there because the team really tried their best," Antetokounmpo said. "We kept our composure. We were down 2-0. A lot of people didn't believe we could make it."

The Bucks held on when Durant missed two late jumpers, the last an airball with 0.3 seconds remaining.

"We got good looks there in overtime. We just didn't knock



Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant (7) reacts after missing a shot as Milwaukee Bucks' Khris Middleton (22) and Jrue Holiday (21) talk to their bench during overtime of Game 7 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Saturday, June 19, 2021, in New York.

them down," Durant said. "Respect to the Milwaukee Bucks in how they prepare, how they challenged us all series and made adjustments all series. We've got nothing but respect for that ballclub."

Middleton added 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, who reached the East finals for the second time in three years. They will play either Philadelphia or Atlanta in a series that starts Wednesday night.

Durant played all 53 minutes and forced OT with a turnaround jumper that was just inches from being a 3-pointer that would have won it with a second left.

"But my big ass foot stepped

on the line," he said. "I just saw how close I was to ending their season with that shot."

Durant added nine rebounds and six assists, but didn't have enough help with injured Kyrie Irving watching from the baseline and James Harden unable to locate his shot after missing most of the first four games with right hamstring tightness.

Harden had 22 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, but was 5 for 17 from the field.

"I was just going out there and trying to give everything I can and it's just frustrating," Harden said.

In a series where the teams often didn't produce the qual-

ity of play that was anticipated between the league's two highest-scoring teams, Game 7 was a thriller, the first to need extra time since Dallas beat San Antonio in the 2006 Western Conference semifinals.

The Bucks had a 109-107 lead before Middleton missed a 3, but the Bucks got the rebound. They then turned it over on a shot clock violation to give the Nets a final chance with 6 seconds left. They threw it in across the court to Durant, who hit a spinning, turnaround jumper from just inside the 3-point line—maybe even on top of it—to tie it at 109.

Bruce Brown scored on a

follow shot to open overtime but neither team scored again until Antetokounmpo's basket with 1:12 to play. Brook Lopez blocked Durant's shot on the other end before Middleton broke the final tie of the series.

Durant tried to prolong it again, dribbling up the floor and running down the clock before launching a long look that came up well short.

Lopez had 19 points for the Bucks, who were knocked out in this round last year after finishing with the NBA's best record. Jrue Holiday shook off a poor shooting night to finish with 13 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

Blake Griffin had 17 points

and 11 rebounds for the Nets, who thought they had a title contender after acquiring Harden but had their three superstars on the floor together for just 43 seconds in this series. They lost for the first time at home in the postseason.

The Nets had struggled with slow starts but put together a good one in Game 7, getting 10 points from Durant to lead 28-25 after the opening quarter.

Middleton and Holiday were both 2 for 11 in the first half, combining to miss all six 3-pointers in a rehash of their shooting struggles from when the series began in Brooklyn.

The Nets capitalized on the Bucks' misfires — Antetokounmpo shot an airball on a free throw and Lopez and Holiday hit the side of the backboard on long jumpers during one ugly stretch — to open a 51-41 lead on Harden's three-point play with 1:59 left in the half.

Down six at halftime, the Bucks came out of the break with a 7-0 burst to grab a 54-53 edge. The Nets regrouped and were ahead 79-74 with under 2 minutes remaining, but the Bucks closed strong to take an 82-81 lead to the fourth.

**PHOENIX** (AP)—The Phoenix Suns and Los Angeles Clippers are still playing basketball deep into these NBA playoffs partly because they've learned to persevere in clutch moments without their biggest stars.

That ability could be put to the test again for both teams in the Western Conference finals.

The Suns and Clippers meet in Game 1 on Sunday in Phoenix with the status of some of their most important pieces in doubt. Suns point guard Chris Paul remains in the NBA's COVID-19 health and safety protocol while Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard is dealing with a knee injury that kept him out of the final two games of against Utah. Leonard and Paul will at least miss Game 1.

It's not an ideal situation for either team. It's also not the time to complain about it.

"You've just got to have a mentality of next man up," Suns forward Jae Crowder said. "We have enough in our locker room, we feel, to get the job done."

The Suns released a short update Saturday that Paul is still in the league's health

## Missing men? Suns, Clips deal with uncertain status of stars

and safety protocol after initially being placed on the list Wednesday. Suns coach Monty Williams said Paul's situation was "day-to-day."

The 36-year-old point guard has been vaccinated against COVID-19, said a person with knowledge of the situation, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of privacy concerns. That may mean that Paul could be cleared to return more quickly than some who tested positive earlier this season before vaccines were readily available.

Leonard sprained his right knee during Monday night's Game 4 win of the Jazz. A sprain, by definition, is a ligament injury, but the Clippers have not said which of the four knee ligaments is the cause for concern. He missed the final two games of the team's series win over the Jazz, including Friday night's Game 6.

Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said Leonard was back in Los Angeles getting treatment on his knee and was out for Game

1. He wasn't sure about the forward's status for Game 2.

The Clippers are 13-9 without their All-Star forward this season, including 2-0 in the playoffs. Leonard — a two-time NBA Finals MVP — is averaging 30.4 points on 57% shooting in the playoffs.

"Our team, I just tell you, they just don't quit," Lue said after Friday's win. "They keep fighting and competing and I think our fans see that this year. We never gave in, never pointed a finger. Never pointed the blame on someone else. We looked in the mirror and we owned it and moved on."

### BOOKER, AYTON RISE TO OCCASION

Several of the Suns' best players, including guard Devin Booker and forward Deandre Ayton, are in the postseason for the first time.

It's safe to say they haven't been intimidated.

Booker is averaging nearly 28 points in the playoffs and had one of the postseason's signature moments with 47 points

in a closeout win over the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers in the first round.

"Throughout these playoffs, he's been phenomenal," Williams said.

Ayton is averaging 15.2 points and 10.6 rebounds while shooting a remarkable 71.6% from the field. He also has provided stellar defense as the team's only true rim protector.

### NEXT MANN UP

Terance Mann has moved into the starting lineup the past two games and has continued his breakthrough second season. Mann — a second-round selection in 2019 — scored a career-high 39 points in LA's series-ending victory Friday night after having 13 points in Game 5.

The 6-foot-5 Mann, who can play guard and forward, is not afraid to drive to the basket but also possesses a strong perimeter shooting game. He had seven 3-pointers on Friday, becoming the third player in Clippers postseason franchise history to make at least seven 3s in a game.

"I mean, you saw him stretch the floor. You saw him defensively. You saw him rebound. You saw him muscle his way to the basket. I mean, you just saw so many flashes of so many different things," Clippers forward Paul George said.

### PLAYING WITH PAYNE

If Paul isn't available for the Suns, look for backup Cameron Payne to get a boost in playing time.

The 26-year-old Payne has already shown he can make big plays in the playoffs. Paul hurt his shoulder in Game 1 of the opening round against the Lakers, which severely limited his impact for a handful of games.

The 6-foot-1 Payne picked up the slack, averaging 12.5 points against the Lakers and shooting 41% from 3-point range.

### PLAYOFF P STEPPING UP

George has scored at least 28 points in the last four games and has more confidence in his shot.

George was shooting 31.7%

from 3-point range in the Clippers first nine playoff games but is 15 of 34 beyond the arc in the last four games of the Utah series.

### THE LUE FACTOR

Lue was the coach when the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a 3-1 deficit against the Golden State Warriors in the 2016 finals. With Lue leading the Clippers, LA is the first team to overcome 2-0 deficits in the same postseason and advance.

For a team that is missing its All-Star forward and rallied from a 25-point deficit on Friday night, the Clippers have emerged as a team that thrives under adversity.

"He always finds a way to talk to us so we don't panic," Nicolas Batum said about Lue. "A couple times, we were down 2-0, twice, and we're down big-time like in Dallas Game 3, we're down, I mean, big time tonight, and we lose that game and we go back to that crazy place in Utah, and he finds a way, get good guys, get a good shot and get a system. We won this game. I love that coach. You have to give him credit."



# Urshela takes shard in eye, hits Yanks' go-ahead home run



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—Gio Urshela stayed

in the game despite a shard of a broken bat hitting his right eye in the second inning and hit a go-ahead homer eighth as the New York Yankees rallied from a three-run deficit in a 7-5 victory Saturday that stopped the Oakland Athletics' seven-game winning streak.

Aroldis Chapman struck out Matt Chapman on a 103.4 mph pitch to strand two runners in the ninth for his 15th save.

Urshela singled in New York's first run in the fourth and put the Yankees ahead 5-4 in the eighth when he lifted a 98.6 mph fastball from Jesús Luzardo (2-4) into the netting above Monument Park in center. DJ LeMahieu added a two-run single against Sergio Romo.

Chad Green (2-4) struck out the side in the eighth.

## Padres 7, Reds 5

In San Diego, rookie Kim Ha-seong hit a tiebreaking, two-run home run with two outs in the eighth—three innings after he replaced injured star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. —and San Diego beat Cincinnati.

Tatis left after apparently hurting his left shoulder diving for Tyler Naquin's RBI single in the fifth. He was replaced by Kim, a rookie from South Korea.

Kim homered off Heath Hembree (1-2) to bring in Tommy Pham. Nabil Crismatt (2-1) got the win.

San Diego will go for a four-game sweep on Sunday. The Padres entered the series after losing 13 of 17 games. The Reds came in on a six-game winning streak.

Jake Cronenworth hit a tying, two-run homer in the third for the Padres, his eighth.

## Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Walker Buehler took a no-hitter into the eighth inning as Los Angeles beat Arizona.

The 26-year-old right-hander walked two, hit a batter and struck out a season-best 11. He was pulled with one out in the eighth after giving up singles to David Peralta and Nick Ahmed.

Arizona has lost a franchise-record 16 straight and dropped 39 of its past 44 games. The Diamondbacks have the worst record in the major leagues at 20-52.

Matt Peacock (2-5) took the loss, giving up three runs over five innings.

Will Smith had three hits for the Dodgers, including his eighth homer of the season. Justin Turner had three RBIs. Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning.



## Phillies 13, Giants 6

In San Francisco, Rhys Hoskins broke out a 2 for 40 slump with a pair of home runs and a career-best six RBIs, leading Philadelphia over San Francisco.

Ronald Torreyes also homered and drove in three runs as the Phillies won at San Francisco for the second time in nine games since 2018. Bryce Harper doubled and scored. Alec Bohm had three of Philadelphia's 16 hits and had two RBIs.

Brandon Belt and Mike Yastrzemski homered for San Francisco. Jarlin García (0-2) took the loss.

Ranger Suárez (3-1) struck out three and retired eight batters.

## Marlins 11, Cubs 1

Chicago, Adam Duvall homered twice for the second straight game, and Pablo López (3-4) pitched one-hit ball over seven innings.

The Marlins have outscored the NL Central leaders 21-3 through the first two games.

Duvall remained locked in after hitting a grand slam and two-run drive in Friday's 10-2 romp. He had two-run shots in the first and third against Jake Arrieta (5-8). Jesús Sánchez added his first big league homer, and Lewin Díaz went deep.

## Mets 5, Nationals 1, 1st game

Nationals 6, Mets 2, 2nd game In Washington, Jon Lester pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning to gain his first win for Washington, Kyle Schwarber backed him with four RBIs on a pair of home runs and the Nationals split a

doubleheader with New York.

Francisco Lindor had five RBIs on a pair of two-run homers and run-scoring single for his first big offensive game with the Mets.

Lester (1-2) was within three outs of his first shutout in seven years before José Peraza hit a two-run homer in the seventh. He gave up two runs and seven hits in six-plus innings with six strikeouts and no walks. Brad Hand earned his 14th save in 16 chances.

Robert Gsellman (0-1) took the loss in his first start of the season.

Trea Turner homered in the third, his 11th this season but first since May 17.

In the opener, Lindor homered in the first on a sinker from Joe Ross, singled in the third on a changeup for a 3-0 lead and homered in the fifth on a slider for his 12th multi-homer game. The five RBIs were his most since his career-high seven for the Indians on July 2, 2018, at Kansas City.

Ross (3-7) allowed five runs and six hits in five innings. He was coming off consecutive starts without allowing an earned run.

## Twins 3, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Max Kepler scored the go-ahead run on a second consecutive wild pitch from Texas reliever John King (5-5) in the seventh inning, and Minnesota beat the Rangers.

Former Texas slugger Nelson Cruz hit a tying two-run homer in the fourth, his team-leading 15th for Minnesota and the 432nd of his career to pass

Cal Ripken Jr. for 49th place.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a two-run homer for the Rangers.

Caleb Thielbar (2-0) claimed the win. Taylor Rogers earned his seventh save.

## Pirates 6, Indians 3

In Pittsburgh, Michael Perez and Bryan Reynolds hit three-run home runs during the seventh inning and Pittsburgh rallied past Cleveland.

Perez homered to right off Bryan Shaw (1-2) to put the Pirates ahead. Four batters later, Reynolds hit a 98-mph fastball from James Karinchak into the Allegheny River.

Pittsburgh has won the first two games of the series after entering on a 10-game losing streak.

Chris Stratton (2-0) pitched two scoreless relief innings for the win.

## Blue Jays 10, Orioles 7

In Baltimore, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his major-league leading 23rd homer and capped a ninth-inning rally with a go-ahead, two-run double as Toronto ended a five-game skid.

Marcus Semien homered twice for Toronto, which scored six runs in the ninth off relievers Paul Fry (0-2) and Tyler Wells to stun the Orioles.

Ryan Mountcastle recorded his first career three-homer game and Cedric Mullins had his second consecutive multi-homer game for Baltimore, which hit six homers in a game for the first time since Aug. 18, 2016 against Houston.

Jordan Romano (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings

for Toronto.

## Red Sox 7, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Mo., light-hitting Bobby Dalbec hit a two-run homer and had three RBIs, finishing a double short of a cycle, and J.D. Martinez hit a two-run homer in Boston's win over Kansas City.

Martín Pérez (5-4) allowed one run and three hits in five innings. Garrett Whitlock, Hirokazu Sawamura and Brandon Workman combined for four innings of four-hit shutout relief.

Brad Keller (6-7) lost his third straight start, giving up five runs, five hits and three walks in five innings.

## Astros 7, White Sox 3

In Houston, rookie Robel Garcia tied a career high with three RBIs, Carlos Correa homered and Houston beat Lance Lynn and Chicago.

Framber Valdez (4-0) had another strong start to help the Astros to a sixth consecutive victory, tying their longest winning streak this season. He yielded six hits and three runs — two earned — in seven innings to extend his career-best streak by winning his sixth consecutive decision dating to last season.

The Astros tagged Lynn (7-3) for eight hits and six runs — both season highs — in four innings in his shortest start of the season.

## Angels 8, Tigers 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani homered for the fourth time in five games and matched his high for homers in a season as Los Ange-

les beat Detroit for its sixth straight home win.

Ohtani has 22 homers and is tied for second-most in the majors with San Diego's Fernando Tatis Jr. They are one behind Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. His two-run shot to left field off Wily Peralta (0-1) matched his total from 2018, when he won AL Rookie of the Year honors.

Patrick Sandoval (2-2) struck out nine in 5 2/3 innings.

Daz Cameron had two hits, including a fourth-inning home run, and drove in two runs for Detroit, which has dropped three straight. Jonathan Schoop also had a solo shot.

## Brewers 6, Rockies 5

In Denver, Willy Adames had four hits, including a go-ahead two-run home run in the top of the ninth inning, and Milwaukee rallied to beat Colorado.

Adames also had three doubles and finished with three RBIs for the Brewers, who snapped a five-game skid as well as a seven-game losing streak to the Rockies.

Raimel Tapia, Yonathan Daza, Trevor Story and Ryan McMahon each had two hits and Charlie Blackmon drove in two with groundouts for the Rockies, who saw their season-high five-game winning streak snapped.

Trevor Richards (2-0) worked a scoreless inning in relief for the victory. Josh Hader earned his 18th save. Tyler Kinley (1-1) took the loss.

## Mariners 6, Rays 5, 10 innings

In Seattle, J.P. Crawford scored the winning run on Mitch Haniger's 10th-inning single and hit a grand slam to lift Seattle over Tampa Bay. Tampa Bay pinch-hitter Brandon Lowe tied it 5-all with a solo home run in the top of the ninth off Kendall Graveman.

Crawford took second in the bottom of the 10th as the designated baserunner and scored on Haniger's single to left field off J.P. Feyereisen (3-3) for Seattle's third straight victory.

Touted prospect Logan Gilbert struck out seven — including leadoff hitter Randy Arozarena three times — in 5 2/3 innings, scattering six hits with no walks. He gave up solo home runs to Mike Zunino and Manuel Margot.

Rafael Montero (4-2) pitched the 10th to win the game.



# The eagle lands at Torrey Pines for Oosthuizen, Hughes

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—The eagle putts looked familiar for a Saturday at Torrey Pines in June, even with Tiger Woods nowhere in sight.

Mackenzie Hughes watched his 60-foot eagle putt from the back of the green to the front on the par-5 13th slide into the cup. Louis Oosthuizen could only hope his 50-foot eagle putt on the 18th found the center of the cup, and it kissed off the pin and disappeared.

Woods made eagle putts from one end of the green to the other on the 13th and 18th holes in 2008 that set the stage for a Sunday filled with anticipation.

Suddenly, this U.S. Open has that familiar feel.

A major that for two days had the sleepy, chill vibe of San Diego now has an urgency for Oosthuizen and Rory McIlroy trying to end long droughts, hope for newcomers like Hughes and Russell Henley, a half-dozen other pos-



sibilities that include Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm.

"It's a golf course where anything can happen," said Oosthuizen, in the mix at a major for the second straight time. "It's just a tough, old-fashioned golf course. You're

going to have nerves. You're going to feel it. It's about how you're going to handle it."

Hughes added a final birdie for a 3-under 68 and was the first to get to 5-under 208. Oosthuizen made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 16th and

ended his round of 70 with the 50-foot eagle on the 18th to join him.

They were tied with Russell Henley, who had a two-shot lead early on the back nine and appeared to be hanging on for dear life at the end. He went

Russell Henley reacts after making his birdie shot from the bunker on the 11th green during the third round of the U.S. Open Golf Championship, Saturday, June 19, 2021, at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego.



from the bunker to the rough to the bunker on the easiest hole at Torrey Pines and had to make an 8-foot par putt for a 71.

McIlroy (67) and DeChambeau (68) were two shots behind.

McIlroy has gone seven years without a major, a drought accentuated by rarely even having decent chances. DeChambeau can get the last laugh in his beef with Brooks Koepka by joining him as a back-to-back U.S. Open champion.

"I thought like two 68s over the weekend from where I was after Friday was going to have a good chance," said McIlroy, who started the third round six shots behind. "I've done the first part of that job. Now it's up to me tomorrow to go out and try to play a similar round of golf."

Woods is recovering from his February car crash that

badly injured his legs and is not back at Torrey Pines. In his absence, the broadcast used every opportunity to relive memories of his two eagles that gave him the 54-hole lead.

It took two players to do that this time, but it was equally spectacular.

"I know Tiger's was further right, but halfway there, I loved it," Hughes said.

"The charge that goes through your body when the ball goes in the hole and the crowd erupts is why we play. It gives me goosebumps now thinking about it."

And he'll have plenty of nerves Sunday playing in the final group with Oosthuizen, who has had five runner-up finishes in the majors — two in playoffs — since winning the 2010 British Open at St. Andrews.

Henley holed a bunker shot on the par-3 11th for birdie for a two-shot lead and made a great par save from the cabbage behind the 12th green. But he showed signs of cracking over the last hour, dropping shots on the 15th and having to escape with par on No. 18.

## HOSKINS

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because I'm really not used to the weather and I was unfamiliar with the course as well so I very surprised to win," she said.

Tan wasn't joking about the weather, as running in the East Coast's frigid weather usually has the mercury go down to -20F without the wind shear.

"It's definitely much better to run in warm weather than the snow. Back in NY, I would have to wear five layers sometimes to run," she said.

The 19-year-old added that it was also a much pleasant experience running the Banzai Cliff run course last Saturday compared to 2018.

"The course was much better than the first time I ran it

three years ago. That time, it was a few months after Super Typhoon Yutu so I was jumping and ducking over fallen trees and branches. This time, the organizers did a good job to clear the route to make sure it's safe for everyone I would just like to thank the organizers for organizing the race. I know it's a lot of work so I'm thankful to be able to run today," she said.

Run Saipan's Edward Dela Cruz congratulated all the winners and all 41 participants for taking part in the early morning race last Saturday.

"Amazing job and strong work to all our runners. It was amazing to see new faces today and for our returning runners. Thank you all! Thank you to our volunteer staff for the race set up and timing."

## 2022

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Camacho in describing his winning logo design.

He added that the mwaar with 11 flowers actually depicts the 11 times that these Mini Games would have happened. The red color, meanwhile, symbolizes the CNMI's "state flower"—the flame tree, which is now in full bloom along the CNMI's roads.

"The three individuals you see in blue, yellow, and green are a call for diversity and

unity in this large sports event. [Aside from the] outer two that support the mwaar, the middle individual reaches upward in a reach for excellence as a champion in their own right. This individual's body also outlines the proa-style shape, a call to our voyaging and maritime heritage," added Camacho.

He went on say that the yellow individual's body is decorated by 14 white or clear spaces because it represents the 14 islands in the CNMI. "Nine on the Northern Islands chain and

five on the southern chain."

Camacho then said the purple wave element seen in the bottom of the logo that supports the whole latte stone and mwaar is the Pacific Games Council logo. "If the ocean and waves connect the various Pacific islands this wave element represented by the Pacific Games Council logo supports and connects all these island-nations participating in this 2022 Pacific Mini Games."

At the end of his presentation, Camacho was awarded

a token of recognition for winning the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games logo design competition with no less than Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, Bishop Ryan Jimenez, 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco T. Peter, and Mini Games organizing committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta joining him on stage.

## KAMIKAZE

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ner-up prize. The Zhis pocketed gift certificates to retain their amateur status.

Peter said an eagle in hole No. 13 really helped their cause. "Hole No. 13 really helped us. I drove it some 80 yards out and from there Joe putt it in for the eagle. It was a one-hopper."

In all, Camacho said they had nine birdies and two eagles. "We had two eagles and we hit them in the two par-4s. We got in the green with some par-4s so that really helped us. Joe had near aces in two holes," added Peter.

Their win in the CCA golf fundraiser also served as an

advance Father's Day gift for both Peter and Camacho, especially for the latter who aside from winning the low gross also won closest to the pin in holes No. 4 and 6.

"We have to buy [this table] pizza!" joked Camacho, who repeatedly was called "sandbagger" during the three times he went up to the front to get his prizes.

He later said that he doesn't understand the catcalls since he's already in the championship flight.

"We really left a lot out there," joked Peter, who is also the Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chairman. "Joe was just amazing. We had zero bogeys... The good thing with Joe is the older he gets the

longer his drives go."

In the end, the champion duo was just happy to win and contribute to a good cause. "It's a great day for golf with great weather and great people," said Peter.

"It's all for a great purpose," said Camacho, who added that playing with Peter wasn't the original plan as he was supposed to partner with son, Xerxes. The two were the champions of the recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament that was also held at the Kagman golf course.

"It's a privilege to play with Marco. It was the first time we played together. I was supposed to play with my son but he had work."

## Pick your poison

### Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



Isn't it strange how the older you get the more indifferent you are to what other folks outside of your circle are doing? To put it bluntly, you couldn't care less. Obviously I can't speak for other people, but after a certain point that is exactly what happened to me. The funny thing about it is, this frame of mind translates particularly well when it comes to getting in better shape and all that jazz.

To give context, when you remove your attachment to subjective measures and superficial outcomes, for whatever reason that's when the ball starts rolling. It's as if things start to take off the minute you say, "Screw it. I'll focus on what I can control and take it day-by-day."

It is what it is. Let's be honest. We're wired to do more than is actually required. But the truth is, there is no benefit to making fitness more complex. You can feel however you want about a particular diet and type of training.

Adding stuff to the table that is of little importance typically does more harm than good. On top of that, advanced strategies won't do you any good if you don't ground yourself with the fundamental principles. For instance, if you're routinely missing meals, not getting in your protein...or worse, sleep deprived—best of luck.

You can look under every rock, and you'll continue to find the same answers. In some way, you're going to have to monitor your food intake. This can be done without having to completely alter how you eat. You may have to down one or two shakes a day just to ensure you're hitting your protein target. Non-negotiable for improving body composition. And you're undoubtedly going to experience a few hiccups along the way. This happens to the best of us.

Point here is: something will suck. It's not supposed to be a cake walk.





Bucks edge Nets in  
OT in Game 7,  
withstand Durant's 48

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Kamikaze, Peter top CCA Golf Open

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**C**NMI national golf team mainstays

Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho and Marco Peter laid waste to the competition to rule the Inaugural Commonwealth Cancer Association Golf Open Fundraising Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Camacho and Peter, who both sport a zero handicap, fired a team low gross best



MARK RABAGO  
Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho, middle, and Marco Peter, left receive their \$800 check after winning the Inaugural Commonwealth Cancer Association Golf Open Fundraising Tournament low gross competition from CCA board president Roman “Bo” T. Palacios last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

score of 13-under par 59 to win the two-man scramble tournament. They beat Joung Hoon Park and Sun Ho Kang, who finished with a 10-under par 62, and Jian Zhi Min and Zhi Zhi Min, who fired a 7-under par 65. Third place went to the Zhis after they were the only pair who birdied hole No. 4.

For the win, Camacho and Peter took home the top purse of \$800, while Park and Kang split the \$650 run-

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## Hoskins, Tan triumph in Underground 5K 21.5

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marshall Hoskins won his second, while returning Tania Tan won her first in last Saturday’s Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.5 in Marpi.

Hoskins completed the nicknamed Banzai Cliff run in 20:31 to beat Ken Song and Taro Goto who came in second and third with times of 20:59 and 22:58, respectively, in the men’s division.

The 27-year-old from Pennsylvania said last Saturday’s course was much easier than the Mt. Tapochau run he topped last April.

“It was much more straight forward and really gave you the opportunity to stretch your legs a bit. It was great seeing people I met on my first race again, as well,” he said.

Hoskins also extended his thanks to organizers of the Run Saipan Underground 5K 21.5. “Thank you to Edward Dela Cruz, Dr. Ron Snyder, Jalen Lucido, Michael Mancao, and Oceania Athletics Association president Robin Sapong. These races are meant for fun and they hit their mark. Of course, I can’t wait for the

next one.” Tan, for her part, dominated the women’s division, finishing a third overall best time of 21:34. Hot on her heels were Noriko Jim (23:35) and Audrey Christley (24:50).

The Fordham University student is back home on Saipan for summer break and said she was as surprised as everyone that she finished in the Top 3 overall and was the first women to cross the finish line.

“I wasn’t expecting to win

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Hoskins



Tan

## 2022 Mini Games logo formally unveiled

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aside from the countdown clock for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games being turned on, the 11th staging of the quadrennial event’s colorful logo was also formally unveiled during the launch ceremony last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Designed by Kadi Marshal Yamada Camacho, the logo incorporates elements of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures in its de-

sign. Camacho said the official unveiling of the logo, which was chosen in a competition, was a long time coming.

“I designed the 2021 Pacific Mini Games logo in late 2018 and now it’s being unveiled as the 2022 Pacific Mini Games logo,” he said. The Mini Games the CNMI is hosting next year was supposed to take place this year, but was eventually moved to 2022 to make way for the Tokyo Olympics that was origi-

nally set in 2020.

“The main depictions of this logo are the latte stones and mwaar as depicted by the two individuals supporting the red flower wreath. The outward boundaries of the two individuals delineate a silhouette of a latte stone. The bodies of the individuals create the cornerstone of the latte stone and headstone are the arms supporting the wreath,” said

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MARK RABAGO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, Bishop Ryan Jimenez, 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco T. Peter, and Mini Games organizing committee CEO Vicente “Ben” Babauta flank 2022 Mini Games logo winner Kadi Marshal Yamada Camacho on stage during last Thursday’s formal unveiling of the quadrennial event’s logo.